

JANUARY 2020

# HEARTS OF EMPOWERMENT

YOUR FAVORITE NONPROFIT'S  
HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER



HEARTS OF



EMPOWERMENT



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# Thanksgiving love with AFAC

A HELPING HAND  
DURING THE HOLIDAYS

As Thanksgiving approached, members of Hearts of Empowerment were happy to provide a lending hand to an organization that goes above and beyond for their local community.

The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) is a food bank that distributes groceries weekly to over 2300 families in need. Founded in 1988, the AFAC dedicates itself to obtaining and distributing groceries free of charge to families who are unable to purchase food to meet their basic needs.

Families are given the opportunity to come in once a week and choose from their favorite meats, fruits, vegetables, and snacks to take home. In an effort to conserve and control food waste, AFAC operates under the Choice Model: a system which provide clients with as many food choices as possible.

AFAC understands that families are more likely to eat what they chose to take and know how to prepare.

During the growing season, Farmers' Markets and local growers donate their weekly leftover crops to AFAC, allowing them to replenish their shelves and provide more options to their clients.

During the last weekend of the Farmers' Markets, AFAC received a large end of season donation of a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. During the visit, our members were given a tour of the facility. Our team enjoyed the opportunity to get their hands dirty and spent the day dividing and packaging crops in order to get them ready for the families they anticipated would visit. With the help of our team members, what usually takes about four hours to package was done in two. In the spirit of giving back it was our pleasure to help an amazing organization residing in our city.



*To learn more about AFAC visit  
[www.afac.org](http://www.afac.org) or feel free to visit them  
at 2708 S Nelson St Arlington, VA*

*22206*





# CHRISTMAS WITH THE REDSKINS

Written by Editorial Team

A holiday tradition for the past 30 years, the Washington Redskins hosted their annual Christmas Party for children in need. Hosted by Hall of Famer and Former Washington Redskins Darrell Green, the event brought together 200 underserved children from different community organizations to enjoy a night of holiday fun. Each child was partnered with a sponsor who spent the night engaging and entertaining them. They shared dinner together, played arcade games, took photos, and received Christmas gifts to take home. This year our Event Coordinator, Amber Berry, participated and spent the evening with David, one of our sponsored children.

A loving and high energy child, David was filled with electricity the entire night. He joyously greeted players, played games, and opened his gifts filled with toys and clothes. There was no doubt the smile on his face was a reflection of the hard work and dedication offered by the Washington Redskins as well as our team of volunteers. It was a wonderful moment for all the children in attendance.

We'd like to thank the Washington Redskins for allowing our organization to participate and bring joy to David on this special occasion. A true holiday evening that brought Christmas joy to everyone.





# COUNTDOWN FOR A CAUSE 2020

## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



As you took the elevator up to the 32nd floor, you couldn't help but stare out the glass elevator windows and witness the scenic views and buildings that our historic city provides. For many, this experience was new and breathe taking. The perfect entrance to an exceptional night and new decade. For the second year, Hearts of Empowerment and The PUSO Foundation came together to provide the city of Washington DC a night to remember. This year's Countdown for a Cause event was held at The View of DC in Arlington, Virginia. This phenomenal venue sits thirty-two stories high and provides breathtaking views of Virginia, Maryland, and the historic monuments of DC.



After selling 300 tickets and raising \$40,000 at last year's New Year's Eve fundraiser, anticipation was at an all-time high. By December 6th, all 400 available tickets were purchased leaving many on the outside looking in. In addition to the ticket sales, both organizations were able to secure thirty sponsors from local businesses and families. A true testament to our supporters and the love they share for our cause.



Guests were able to come together and share a night of gratitude and enjoyment. From grabbing drinks to dancing the night away, smiles and laughs were seen across the floor. As midnight approached, everyone came together to give their final goodbyes to the old year. CEO's Correy Faciane and Robert Banez presented the event check, displaying a total of \$55,000 raised for charity. The crowd screamed out of excitement and support as the countdown began. Just like that we were out with the old, and in with the new. A new year had arrived and set the standard of what is to come for both partnering organizations.

The most exciting part about this event is yet to come. The proceeds of this event are used towards developing the mission of both Hearts of Empowerment and The PUSO Foundation. The PUSO Foundation will use the funds to support their mission trips to Africa and Latin America, while Hearts of Empowerment will be able to continue providing support to various organizations in need. To everyone who attended, donated, and supported our NYE event thank you! Your support will provide aid to many across this beautiful world.

# OUR JOURNEY IN 2019



## NYE 2019

Our first event as an organization brought much success. With the support of all 300 attendees, we were able to raise over \$40,000 which was used to support all projects held in 2019 and our partners' mission trips across the world.



## LIFE'S A GIFT

Through a partnership with INOVA Children's Hospital, we were able to host a toy drive to help provide much needed resources. Not only were we able to provide over 500 donated toys and supplies, but a Nintendo Switch and iPad brought joy to the staff and children as well.



## GIVE N GO

Working alongside Myles Tate Performance, a two day basketball camp was held. Not only were campers able to improve their skill sets but they were taught the importance of team work, work ethic, and the impact giving to others can have on themselves.



## JILLS HOUSE

This amazing organization provides families raising kids with disabilities overnight respite care. Their art program was outdated, yet it's their most popular activity. Working alongside a local church, we were able to provide new art supplies to assure the success of this much needed and loved art program.



## FORBES 30 UNDER 30

Hearts of Empowerment was invited to attend the Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit in Detroit, MI. This event allowed for members of our team to interact with young leaders, investors and creators from all across the world. An amazing opportunity to learn from the best and show the world what we have to offer.



## FALL FESTIVAL

A partnership with For The Love of Others brought life to our very first Fall Festival. This event had activities for all ages and benefited our partners, No Empty Belly Program. This program provides meal bags for children who live in food scarce households.



**ON BEHALF OF OUR TEAM,  
WE'D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR CONSTANT SUPPORT!**

