



LPF OHIO



2024 Annual Report

4848 Evanswood Drive
Columbus, OH 43228


www.levelingtheplyingfield.org

Mission: Leveling the Playing Field redistributes equipment to expand access and equity within youth sports and recreation programs in under-resourced communities.

Vision: A world with no sidelines



Eric Rutkowski, LPF Ohio Program Director



Eric joined LPF Ohio as Program Director in October of 2023. An Ohio native, Eric grew up in Columbus playing football, basketball, soccer, baseball, and more! After graduating from a Columbus area high school, Eric earned his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Denison University.

Since graduating, Eric has worked in the Columbus nonprofit space, with a focus on education, youth programming, and development. Eric is passionate about helping the young people of Ohio reach their full potential and is thrilled to be in a position to help build a community where that's possible.



WHAT WE DO: A food bank...but for sports equipment

Collection



We primarily collect sports equipment through community drives and strategically placed metal donation bins that bring in equipment from local families. We also accept donations of discontinued or overstock goods from sporting goods companies. Staff run collection drives at youth sports tournaments, school events, and neighborhood recycling days to fill our van with donated sports gear for our warehouse.

Volunteer Engagement



We rely heavily on volunteers to sort and pack equipment in our warehouses. In addition to warehouse volunteering, individuals and groups often run collection drives within their community.

Distribution Program



Schools and community-based organizations apply for an equipment grant online. Then, we schedule either a site visit or interview at our warehouse. Approved programs are invited to shop the warehouse as often as they want without reapplying! Some programs come once a year and others come on a monthly basis.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

\$445,308

worth of sports equipment **collected**

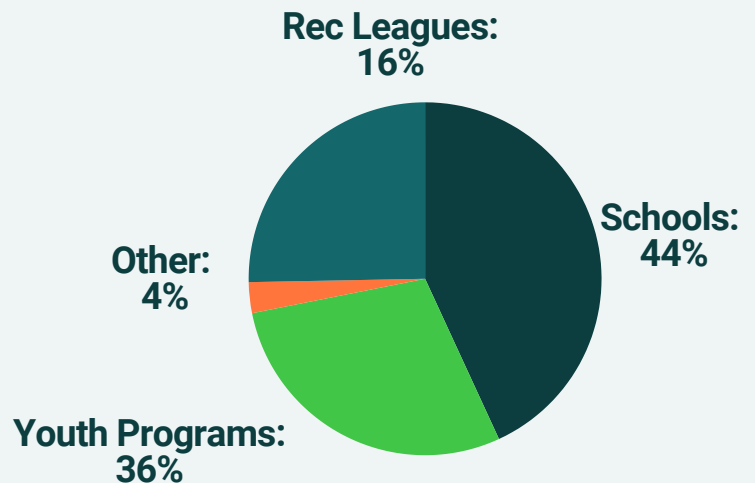
\$187,139

worth of sports equipment **distributed**



Programs Served

67 total programs impacted



"I wanted to thank Leveling the Playing Field. They have played a huge part in the success of our fall soccer program with Columbus City Schools. The equipment they donated has had such an amazing impact on the students. The sense of pride they have felt has been immeasurable. You have given pride to so many young children to be part of a team."

-Final Third Foundation, Director of Soccer

OPEN FOR DISTRIBUTION!

In August, LPF Ohio Program Director Eric Rutkowski, Executive Director Max Levitt and COO Kaitlin Brennan gathered at our Columbus warehouse with members of the local community including to officially launch our distribution efforts.

Since extending the invitation for local Title I schools and youth programs to access our resources in August, LPF Ohio continues to receive more and more equipment grant applications online.

97 equipment grant applications received



*"The donation of sporting goods from LPF had a significant and positive impact on the MARVEL*US afterschool and summer camp program. The availability of new sporting goods allowed more students to participate in activities, leading to higher engagement levels."*

-CLC Works



SPORTS BRA POP-UP

In November, thanks to funding support from the Women's Sports Foundation in partnership with Gainbridge Sport and Parity Now, LPF Ohio completed its first-ever pop-up distribution event! LPF teamed up with Columbus Fury player Megan Lush to provide free sports bras for 50 local girls as they participated in a volleyball skills clinic at the Woodward Park Community Center.

50 girls provided with new sports bras

PROGRAMS SERVED IN 2024

Adaptive Sports Ohio
Alliance Academy of Cincinnati
Avondale Elementary School
Bennett Venture Academy
Berwick Alternative
Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio
Booker T Washington Community Center YMCA
Boys & Girls Club of Massillon
Bridgeway Academy
Buckeye Middle School
Capital City Jaguars Youth Sports Association
West Broad Elementary School
Cedarwood Elementary
City Heights Volleyball Club
City of Whitehall Parks and Recreation
CLC WORKS - MARVEL*US
Columbus Bilingual Academy -North
Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation
Columbus Gifted Academy
Columbus Global Academy
Columbus ICE
Columbus Spanish Immersion Academy
Communities in Schools at Green Inspiration Academy
Como Elementary School
Directions for Youth and Families
Eakin Elementary School
Ecole Kenwood
Elyria Ice Hockey Club
Elyria Youth Sports Club
Final Third Foundation
FitTennX
Focus Learning Academy of Northern Columbus
Foundation of Compassionate American Samaritans (FOCAS)

Indianola Middle School
Innes CLC
Jesus Power Assembly of God
Legacies United Foundation
Lincoln Park Elementary/Columbus City Schools
Livingston Elementary School
Moler Elementary/Columbus City Schools
OH10 AYBL
OH10 SPORTS
Ohio Avenue
Parsons elementary
Recess All Stars (Lincoln Park)
Siebert Elementary School
Soccer for the Future - OH
South East Baseball
Southeast High School
Southeast Pirates Play Golf
Southwood Elementary
Stewart Alternative School
Support Our Veterans Corporation
The Ability Center
The Brian Muha Foundation - The Day School
The Hardy Center Inc
The Weinland Park Wildcats Youth Athletics Initiatives
Train-Up Basketball
Vedic Welfare Society
Watkins Elementary School
West End Elite Royals Academics and Athletes Club
Whitehall Bantam Football League
Whitehall Yearling HS
Woodward Park Community Center
Yorktown Middle School
YWCA Columbus - Family Center



SUPPORTERS



Volunteers

LPF relies heavily on volunteers in order to keep our warehouses organized and easy to navigate. Our help comes from local families, middle-schoolers, high-schoolers, college groups, and corporate groups alike. LPF Ohio was excited to work with groups such as Dick's Sporting Goods, Huntington Bank, Grange Insurance, Chase Bank, OSU, BESA, Black Sports Professionals, NBC4i, Columbus Acadmey, Jeni's Ice Cream, Columbus Rec & Parks – all of whom volunteered their time at our warehouse in 2024.

We could not carry out our mission without this steady flow of volunteers in our warehouse. Thank you for sustaining our work!

390

hours volunteered

182

volunteers

29

collection drives

15

metal collection bins



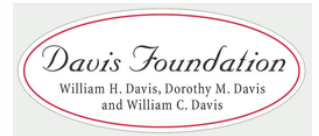
Collection Drives

Kids, families, teams, and companies in our community run collection drives throughout the year, helping LPF collect thousands of dollars worth of sports equipment. These collection efforts truly fuel our work and keep our warehouse stocked so that we can keep up with the high demand of gear from local schools and youth programs.

We want to thank everyone who collected gear for us in 2024 and hope to see you again soon!



2024 Major Funders



2024 Major In-Kind Donors

After-School All-Stars Ohio
 Bendix LLC
 Black Sports Professionals
 City of Whitehall Parks and Recreation
 Cleveland Browns
 Columbus Academy
 Columbus Crew
 Columbus Recreation and Parks
 Columbus Torah Academy & Columbus
 Jewish Day School
 Consolidated Solutions
 David Grosser Collection Drive
 Dick's Sporting Goods
 Grange Insurance
 Hoagy's All Americans
 Huntington National Bank

Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream
 John Carroll University
 Jonah Butler Collection Drive
 JP Morgan Chase
 Kenyon College
 Liberty/Powell YMCA
 Licking Heights Local Schools
 Locker Soccer Academy
 Madison Christian School
 Mesh Fitness
 Ohio Premier Soccer
 Ohio State Rugby
 Ohio State University - Events
 OHSAA
 Olentangy Cubs Little League
 Olentangy Little League

Orthopedic One
 Otterbein University
 Resolute Athletic Complex
 RPAC - OSU
 Rudis Wrestling
 Ryan Ferguson
 Scioto Ridge Elementary School
 Second & Seven
 Seeds of Caring
 St. Brendan School
 Stella Shuster
 The Braxton Miller Foundation
 The Weinland Park Wildcats Youth
 Athletics Initiatives
 Toys for Tots
 Urban Lacrosse Academy
 Winchester Thurston School

WE'VE GOT BINS!

Metal Collection Bins

Thanks to the help of local partners, LPF Ohio is thrilled to share the placement of 15 bins across the Greater Columbus area in 2024! Metal collection bins are an easy way for individuals to donate their gently used sports gear without having to make a trip to the warehouse. Using LPF's Donation Bin locator tool on our website, you can find the bin closest to you. In 2024 alone, these bins helped bring in **\$120K+** worth of gear to our warehouse!



Community Support

LPF is grateful for partners like the **Greater Columbus Tennis Association** for spreading the word about collecting gear across locations: **Elysium Tennis Club, Wickertree Tennis Club, Olympic Indoor Tennis, and The Players Club**. Thank you for supporting our mission!



2024 Bin Partners

- The Chiller Ice Rinks
- Columbus Blue Jackets
- Dick's Sporting Goods Sports Matter Program
- Greater Columbus Tennis Association (GCTA)
- Liberty / Powell YMCA

FY24 Financials

REVENUE

Corporate Contributions	\$64,305
Foundation Contributions	\$109,060
Individual Contributions	\$2,683
Total Revenue	\$176,048

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$85,913
Facilities & Equipment	\$32,993
Program Supplies	\$3,724
Travel and Meetings	\$7,429
Miscellaneous	\$3,764
Total Expenditures	\$133,823

Net Revenue	\$42,225
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