

FIGHT FOR LIFE FOUNDATION



# OUR 2023 IMPACT

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# A YEAR OF GROWTH, COMMUNITY, AND CENTERING MISSION ALIGNMENT

2023 was one for the Hall of Fame! We surfed through waves of opportunities, surprises, and personal growth, and even when we faced some unexpected hurdles, we kept our eyes on the prize and stayed true to our mission-driven strategy.

This year was full of firsts, from hosting our first-ever Building Dreams Champions Breakfast at the Colt's Practice Facility, to testing out our new 9-week STEM curriculum with the awesome teens at The Rock Community Center on Indianapolis' east side.

Our team set a whole bunch of records too! We snagged the biggest grant, individual contribution, individual licensing agreement, and in-kind contribution to date.

The Fight for Life team is feeling the heat, and we're more fired up than ever to achieve our goals and bring our vision to life. We're committed to making a difference in the lives of underserved youth and underfunded schools across Indianapolis and beyond. Let's do this!

**FIGHT FOR LIFE**  
FOUNDATION







# FILLING THE GAPS WITH PROGRAMMING

BY ANNA SUTTER  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

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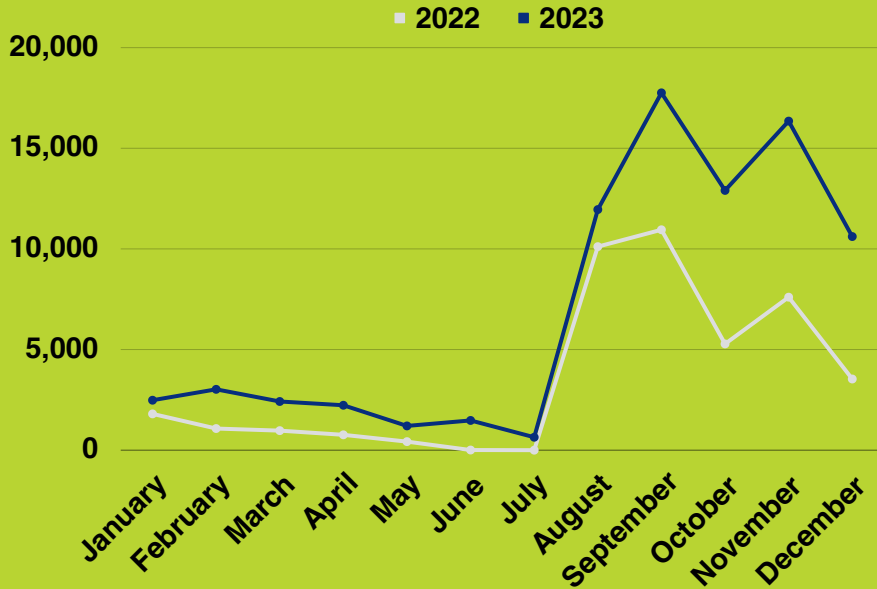
Although **Fight for Life Foundation** has been making more and more headlines over the last couple of years, many are shocked to learn that the organization has been around since 2007, launched at the height of Marlin's time with the NFL.

Fast forward 15 years, and that same organization has evolved into a game-changing ed tech software as a service that is relationship-focused and impact-driven. Schools and youth development programs that license **Building Dreams** are also eligible to receive **Be A Blessing** resources and opportunities.

I joined the team mid-2022 as a former school counselor who felt defeated and cynical from the lack of support in the field. When I met the Fight for Life team and saw a demo of the technology, I immediately felt refreshed.

***“If I would have had this as a school counselor, it would have saved me hundreds of hours of data analysis and advocacy work.”***

I've been fortunate enough to work alongside a team of professionals who share a deep commitment towards equity, inclusion, and dismantling the status quo that favors the privileged and powerful. It's been an honor to be a part of Fight for Life Foundation, supporting our leadership, partners, volunteers, and board of directors in pursuing our mission and vision. As we approach the new year, I'm excited to see what's in store for the Programming team, including the addition of a new Implementation Specialist.



## BUILDING DREAMS ENGAGEMENT CONTINUES TO RISE

Every single data point collected in our software as a service is an interaction point between an adult and a child. The platform equips administrators with the data they need to support their teachers and students, including data on social-emotional wellness, communication, and behavior.

# QUANTIFYING IMPACT: NUMBERS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Did you know that we have an entire research team at Fight for Life Foundation? With invaluable teammates like Dr. Francis Bowen (Butler University) and Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty (Indiana University), we conduct groundbreaking research in education and social work. Our research paper, "Revealing Underlying Factors of Absenteeism: A Machine Learning Approach," won the Best Paper award at the 2022 Midwest Decision Sciences Institute annual conference, giving us a strong start to the year.

In 2023, we provided partnership, support, and a school management system to a total of 17 schools and youth development programs around Indianapolis.

When hosting Discovery meetings and presenting a demo of our technology, the data analytics features are always a "touchdown!"

Teachers, principals, and school counselors, and all those in K-12 education are eager to have reliable partners who provide products and services that work.

**Building Dreams** serves as a tool to help teachers connect and manage relationships with students and their families while also collecting the information school administrators need to make informed decisions on social-emotional wellness, safety, and behavior. It provides access and comfort to guardians by providing a quick touch point to their child and necessary communication in real time.



# 860

students attended a **Be A Blessing** field trip in 2023.

*All field trips, including transportation and lunch, are planned and funded by Fight for Life Foundation and offered monthly to school partners. We relieve the burden of extra work on educators and provide memorable experiences around Indianapolis for students.*



# A YEAR OF BEING A BLESSING

Building Dreams is augmented with the Be A Blessing program that provides incentives and rewards for active participation for students, classrooms, schools, and families enrolled in Building Dreams.

The pandemic changed a few things for all things Be A Blessing, but 2023 was the year for a complete implementation! We provided monthly field trips at places like the Children's Museum, Living Room Theaters in Bottleworks, and The Indianapolis Zoo.

In partnership with Toys for Tots and many local businesses, we were able to collect over 4,000 items for youth & families in underserved communities. We provided toys and lunch to over 1,400 students across 4 schools in Indianapolis. We had the largest turnout of volunteers that we have seen.

The magic didn't stop there! At the end of November, we received a large donation of many household items, like clothes, bedding, and decor. We were able to partner with Phalen Leadership Academies to disperse the items to the community prior to the holidays.





## CONNECT WITH US

Do you want to learn more about Fight for Life Foundation, schedule a discovery meeting of our Building Dreams software as a service, donate to our Be A Blessing program, or volunteer your time?

 [WWW.FFLF.ORG](http://WWW.FFLF.ORG)

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