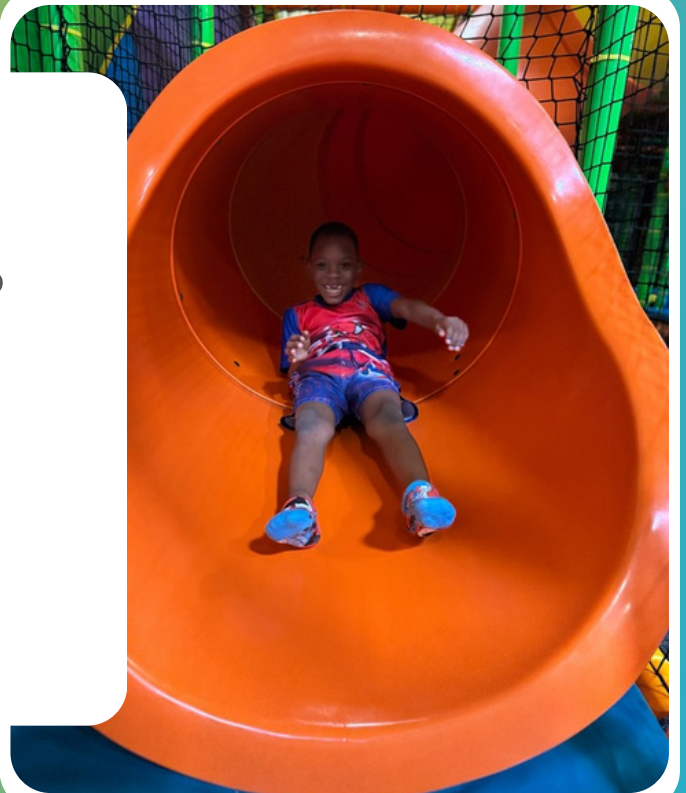


2025 Gratitude Report

FR1ENDS of the
CH1LDREN
Houston





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Letter From the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on another remarkable year at *Friends of the Children – Houston*, I am filled with deep gratitude for your unwavering belief in our mission—to walk alongside children who face the greatest obstacles, providing the stability, consistency, and care of a paid, professional Friend for 12+ years, no matter what.

This year, we witnessed powerful moments of transformation that remind us why this work matters. One of our Friends shared the story of *Jordan and his mom, Lisa*. When Jordan joined Friends Houston in kindergarten, his teachers worried he might fall behind because of frequent moves and instability at home. With his Friend's steady presence and encouragement, Jordan began to thrive. Today, he has made significant progress in reading, loves science, and proudly shows off the certificates he received for *Student of the Month* for academic and behavior improvement. Lisa, with support from our Family Engagement Specialist, recently secured stable housing and says, "Friends Houston didn't just help Jordan — they helped me believe again that our family could have a future."

Stories like theirs are possible because of you.

In 2025, we doubled the number of youth and families receiving our service and expanded our school and community partnerships. All of our youth made progress in school success and improved health, and 100% of caregivers met their interaction goals with Friends.



We welcomed new professional Friends, expanded staff training around literacy intervention, and strengthened our family engagement systems to ensure every child and caregiver receives the wraparound support they need to thrive.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to grow our reach across Greater Houston, building new community partnerships and laying the foundation for long-term sustainability. We are also deepening our focus through *Literacy Uplifts*—our literacy development and intervention initiative that ensures every child not only learns to read but discovers the joy, confidence, and lifelong opportunity that come with it.

Thank you for standing with us—for believing that every child, no matter what, deserves to be seen, supported, and given the opportunity to dream.

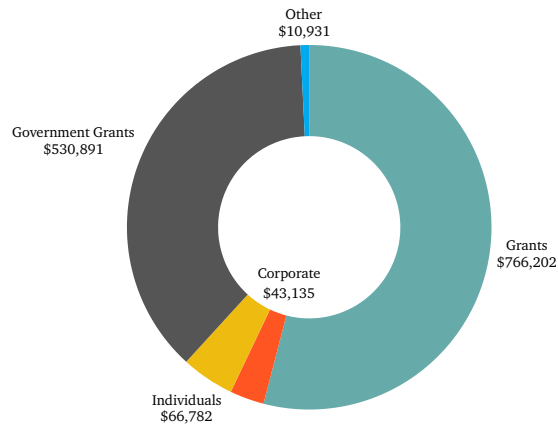
With heartfelt gratitude,

Tre Maxie

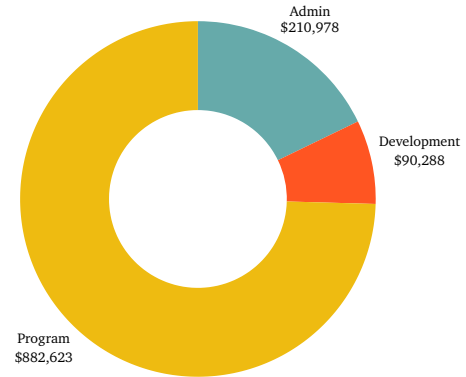
Tre Maxie
Executive Director
Friends of the Children – Houston

FY2025 Financials

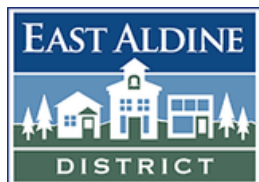
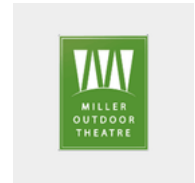
Revenue Total: 1,417,941



Expense Total: \$1,183,889



Partners



Mission

Impacting generational change by empowering youth who are facing the greatest obstacles through relationships with professional mentors—12+ years, no matter what.

Our Method

We select children who face multiple systemic obstacles. We amplify their voices as they write their own stories of hope and resilience.

Our Model

We commit to each child for the long-term. 12+ years, no matter what. Each child is paired with a paid professional mentor called a Friend.



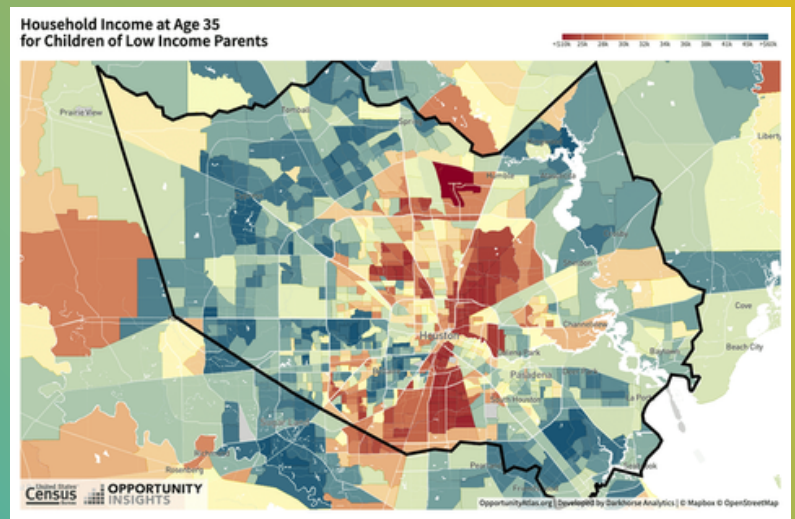
Simone Biles
helps bring **Friends
of the Children**
to her hometown
of Houston, TX!

Scan here to watch
a brief message
from Simone!



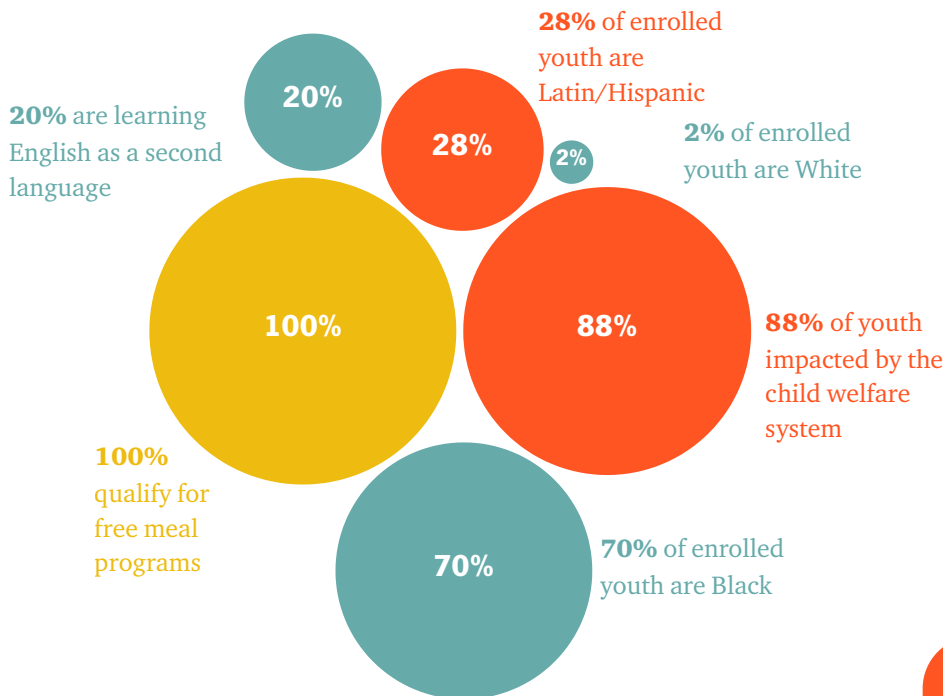
HARRIS COUNTY: *The Opportunity*

Over 30% of children in Harris County face multiple risk factors, which, when paired with the support of a Friend, can significantly improve their lives and future outcomes. We prioritize neighborhoods with the highest poverty levels in Harris County, focusing on areas where we can make the greatest impact.



Harris County, TX map illustrating the highest poverty areas in dark red.

Youth Demographics



Local Outcomes

Our youth are enrolled across 30 schools within 10 school districts and 2 charter schools.

10,000+

hours of mentoring experiences were provided to youth this year including many who received their first library card

90%

of youth engaged in literacy and learning opportunities at local libraries including Tomball, Houston, and Harris County Public Libraries

219

youth and families, including 51 youth receiving 1:1 mentoring in and out of school

100%

of youth made progress in school success, improved health, and making good choices

Our Long-Term Outcomes

92%

of youth go on to enroll in post-secondary education, serve our country, or enter the workforce.

83%

of youth earn a high school diploma or a GED.

93%

of youth remain free from juvenile justice system involvement.

98%

of youth wait to parent until after their teen years.

Core Assets



Growth Mindset

I love learning and know that my abilities will improve through dedication and effort.



Belonging

I understand who I am, have a place where I feel accepted and know that my contributions count.



Hope

When I have tough times, I believe it can get better.



Problem Solving

I know how to weigh the pros and cons and make a decision.



Perseverance & Grit

I work hard through challenges and finish what I start.



Self Management

I know how to manage my feelings and take care of myself in a healthy way.



Self Determination

I believe in myself and am able to set goals and achieve them.



Find Your Spark

I use creativity to explore my passions.



Positive Relationship Building

I get along well with others and am able to find people to support me.

Investing in the Houston Community

High School Graduation

48% of Hispanic and 67% of Black youth living in poverty are likely to drop out of school.

83% of our youth graduate from high school.

This saves Houston
\$308,000
per child.

Waiting to Parent

49% of Hispanic and 54% of Black youth living in poverty are likely to become teen parents.

98% of our youth wait until after their teen years to start a family.

This saves Houston
\$271,000
per child.

Avoiding the Juvenile Justice System

13% of Hispanic and 20% of Black youth living in poverty are likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system.

93% of our youth avoid the juvenile justice system.

This saves Houston
\$153,000
per child.



For every 100 Friends of the Children graduates, society gains:

- 24 more high-school or college graduates;
- 59 fewer teen parents;
- 30 fewer people getting an early start in prison and correspondingly fewer victims of the crimes they would have committed.

How Friends of the Children Breaks the Cycle of Poverty

Highly at-risk children who receive 12.5 years of intensive, professional mentoring through Friends of the Children achieve impressive and measurable results relative to similar children not served by Friends of the Children.

We estimate, in total, \$3.4 million in social benefit due to mentoring each Friends of the Children graduate. The social return on investment (SROI) is 26.8 times the cost of the Friends of the Children program.

Friends of the Children graduates experience greater educational achievement as well as decreased involvement in the justice system and teen parenting compared to similar youth that do not have access to the program. These achievements relate directly to the ability to escape the cycle of poverty. The poverty rate amongst Friends of the Children graduates is roughly 20 percentage points below what would have been otherwise.

How It Works

ONE

We select children who could most benefit from a relationship with a long-term professional mentor. Like all children, the youth we serve have unique talents, varied interests and big dreams. Unlike other programs, we exclusively focus on children who are also facing systemic obstacles and who have lived through a lot of trauma. Our youth have experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by the time they reach kindergarten. We partner with community organizations, schools and foster care systems to help us identify children ages 4 to 6 who could most benefit from a relationship with a Friend.

TWO

We hire and train full-time paid professional mentors called Friends. Our Friends' full-time job is to empower and support youth and their caregivers. Moving mentorship out of the volunteer realm is key to getting the quality, consistency and commitment our children and their families deserve in the relationship.

Each Friend works with eight youth, spending four hours every week with each child in and out of school.



THREE

We commit for the long term. We commit to every child for the long term, from kindergarten through graduation. 12+ years, no matter what.

FOUR

Our work is relationship-based, individualized and intentional. Each child gets a dedicated, one-on-one Friend who spends a minimum of 14 to 16 intentional hours per month with them. Friends and youth set goals and design activities that advance those goals and build life and literacy skills. Friends of the Children works with Caregivers to set goals and support their parenting and personal development skills.

FIVE

We work with youth in school, at home and in the community. We take a whole-child approach because we understand that lived experiences, home environment, systems, community and culture shape how a child develops and learns. Friends serve as a link between the different areas of a child's life to create stability and consistency – spending time in school as an advocate and support; time in their neighborhood to build connection and community; and time at home, becoming a trusted resource to the youth and their caregivers.

SIX

We evaluate, measure and improve. We are equal parts head and heart. Data from Friends, youth and caregivers help us continuously improve and do our best day-to-day work. Ongoing third-party research and evaluation drive program improvement and innovation. We measure our ongoing effectiveness using qualitative and quantitative data to review and adjust on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis.



Libraries Spark Learning

For many of our youth, stepping into a public library for the first time was a brand-new experience. Until recently, most had only visited their school library. But this year, Friends Houston youth explored libraries across their communities, discovering the wonder of reading in a whole new way.

During these visits, Friends guided youth through the aisles, teaching them how to navigate the library, search for books by title or subject, and check out materials using their very own library cards. Youth also participated in reading challenges and the popular Pajama Read, a fun literacy event where families gathered in cozy pajamas to share stories and celebrate the joy of reading together.

Did You Know?

- Friends Houston youth received over 25 new library cards this year.
- The Friends Houston Clubhouse Library now houses hundreds of donated books for youth to explore and enjoy.
- Youth surpassed their summer reading goals, with many reading ten or more books during the summer.
- Reading, curiosity, and emotional growth are integrated into every youth's personal development goals.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Friends Houston received hundreds of new books this year, allowing us to create our first-ever library at the Friends Houston Clubhouse. This new space has quickly become a favorite among youth and Friends alike. A vibrant, comfortable setting where imagination thrives.

Friends use the library to foster a different kind of learning environment—one that allows youth to explore their curiosity, strengthen literacy skills, and practice social and emotional growth in a setting outside their regular routines. It's a place where stories come to life, and where reading feels less like homework and more like discovery.

With the encouragement and support of their Friends, many youth set personal reading goals and surpassed the summer challenge of reading ten or more books! Along the way, they gained not only stronger reading skills but also greater confidence and pride in their progress.

At Friends Houston, we celebrate every milestone—from improved reading fluency to leadership awards and personal growth. With the steady support of their long-term professional mentors, these young people are learning that every page turned is a step toward a brighter future.



Mentor Lawren's Reading Breakthrough

When Lawren first began working with her youth, reading felt like a challenge. Words seemed more like barriers than bridges. But through consistent encouragement, patience, and creative literacy activities, everything began to change.

Each week, they practiced together. Reading aloud, asking questions, and exploring stories that sparked curiosity. Slowly, confidence replaced hesitation.

By the end of the summer, her youth had made an entire grade-level improvement in reading comprehension and was choosing books to read independently. **"We focused on connection, and that made all the difference with reading."**

Their journey is a reminder that with belief, consistency, and joy, every child can unlock their potential, word by word, page by page.



Unlocking Potential

Friends Houston Launches **Literacy Uplifts** Intervention Initiative

We believe that every child deserves the chance to dream, learn, and thrive—and that literacy is the key that unlocks those possibilities. Yet for many of the youth we serve, the road to reading confidence is filled with challenges that go far beyond the classroom.

Research shows that toxic stress from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)—including exposure to violence, housing instability, or the daily stresses of poverty—can derail healthy brain development and affect a child's ability to focus, learn, and regulate emotions. These experiences often trigger a chronic stress response in the brain, limiting the cognitive functions that support reading, memory, and comprehension.

At the same time, children growing up in poverty are often exposed to significantly fewer words by kindergarten, have limited access to age-appropriate books, and attend underfunded schools with fewer academic supports. For many, reading is not a joy. It is a struggle that can lead to frustration, isolation, and low self-esteem. Without early and intentional intervention, these barriers compound over time, creating lifelong consequences for learning and opportunity.

That's why Friends Houston is launching an expanded focus on Literacy Intervention. **Literacy Uplifts** is an initiative designed to break these cycles by addressing the root causes of low literacy and empowering youth to see themselves as capable, curious, and confident learners.

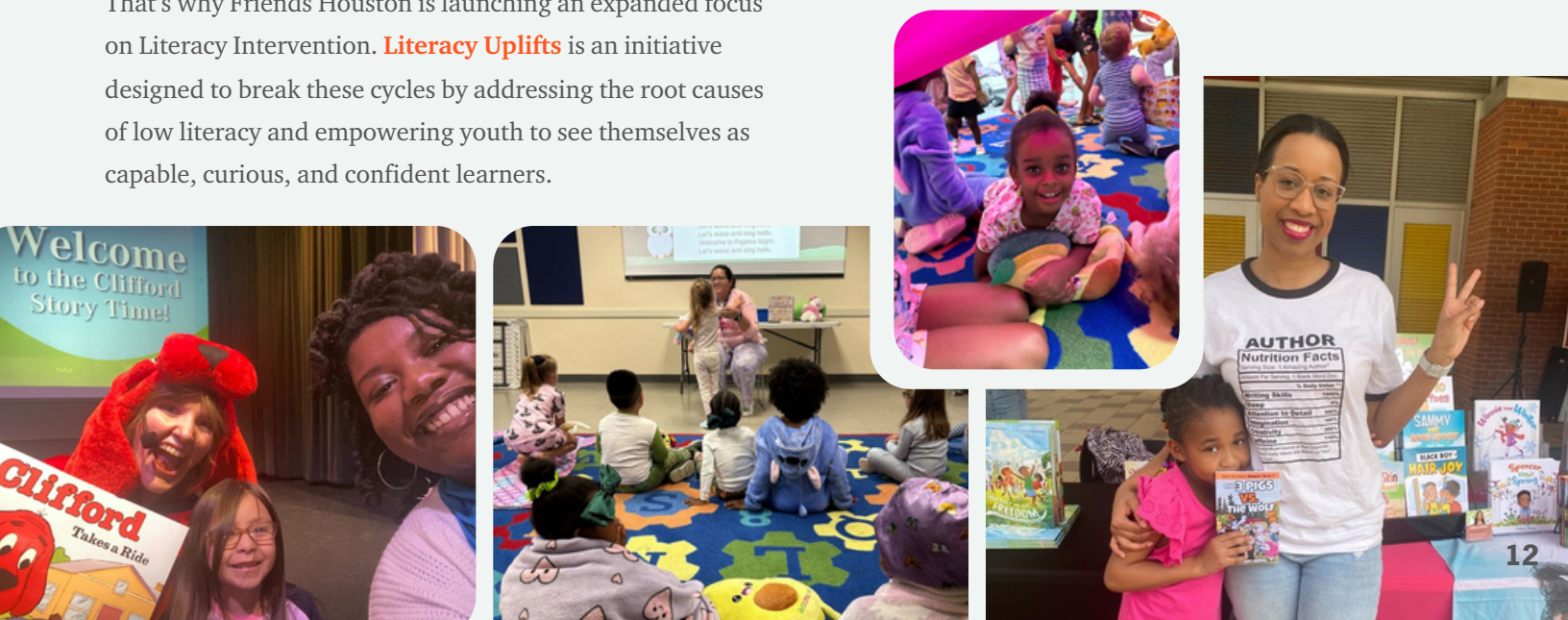
A Whole-Child, Whole-Family Approach to Literacy

Our literacy strategy is grounded in research and built on relationships. Inspired by findings from the Harvard Center on the Developing Child and the Urban Institute, our approach recognizes that the most effective way to improve literacy among youth facing complex adversity is through consistent, caring relationships and individualized support.

Each Friend works with youth and caregivers to:

- Identify and address obstacles that impede literacy development
- Cultivate a culture of reading both at home and in the community
- Provide direct academic and emotional support
- Use data to guide progress and adjust strategies
- Advocate with teachers and schools to ensure youth receive the resources and attention they need.

In practice, this means Friends are doing much more than tutoring. They are creating safe spaces for learning, celebrating small victories, and building the self-regulation and resilience skills that allow children to stay focused and motivated.



Why Literacy Matters

Low literacy in childhood can have lifelong effects. Children who struggle to read are more likely to experience lower grades, increased absences, and difficulty staying engaged in school. But when literacy is nurtured early, the trajectory changes.

Our goal is simple yet profound: to ensure every child in our program reads at or above grade level by the end of third grade. And for those who need more time, to provide the individualized, long-term support needed to get there. Because we know that children are taught to read up to third grade—but after that, reading becomes the foundation for all future learning.

By intervening early and staying with children for 12+ years, Friends Houston provides the stability, relationships, and resources that make literacy growth not only possible but powerful.

The Science of Connection and Growth

Our educational philosophy is rooted in evidence that stable, nurturing relationships buffer the effects of toxic stress and help children's brains recover and grow. Within the calm, welcoming environment of our Friends Houston Clubhouse, children feel secure enough to explore their curiosity and take academic risks.

There, Friends use reading circles, literacy games, and storytelling to strengthen comprehension and self-expression. They integrate reading practice into daily activities and connect learning to art, music, and play—transforming what once felt like a challenge into an opportunity for joy.

Over time, the impact is clear: youth who once avoided books now lead story time. Children who once doubted themselves now read aloud with pride. With each word, their confidence—and their world—expands.

“When a child discovers the joy of reading, they don’t just learn to read, they begin to believe in themselves.”



A Call to Action: Be Part of the Story

The launch of our expanded Literacy Intervention Initiative is just the beginning. With your support, we can continue building spaces—like our Friends Houston Clubhouse Library—where children can explore, imagine, and grow.

You can be part of this movement to strengthen young minds and futures:

- **Give:** Help us expand access to literacy materials, books, and family reading events.
- **Partner:** Join us in building a community network that supports youth and families through reading.
- **Volunteer:** Offer your time or expertise to inspire the next generation of learners.

Scan the QR code to learn more about how you can get involved.





Celebrating a Season of Words & Wonders

This summer, our Words & Wonders campaign gave youth and families a season full of joy, learning, and new experiences. From literacy adventures to arts exploration to sports and wellness, every activity was designed to inspire curiosity, build confidence, and strengthen relationships. With the help of our mentors and Family Success Team, youth discovered new passions, tried new things, and built skills that will carry them into the school year and beyond.

Kicking Off Summer with Family Fun

We started the summer by celebrating the end of the school year with a Family Movie Night featuring **Lilo & Stitch**. Youth, siblings, and caregivers came together to enjoy popcorn, laughter, and togetherness—a joyful start to a season centered on connection and growth.

“Every activity this summer was designed to inspire curiosity, build confidence, and strengthen relationships.”

Adventures in Learning and Play

Our summer calendar was packed with fun and discovery. Youth took field trips to the aquarium, the **Houston Zoo**, and the **science museum**, and even attended a glow-in-the-dark **monster truck show**. They explored creativity at places like the **Sloomoo Institute**, **Urban Air**, and **Houston Interactive Aquarium**. Through the **Houston Library System**, they dove into **PJ Reading Time**, the Make Music Day Festival, and reading challenges with stacks of books.

One particularly special outing took place at the **Houston Police Department’s Mounted Patrol Barn**, where youth met and fed the police horses. It wasn’t just a fun afternoon—it was a chance to practice patience, calm, and care while following safety directions around such big animals. For some, it was their first time meeting each other, and it was heartwarming to see new friendships forming as they shared the experience. We’re so grateful to HPD for opening their doors and making this visit possible.



Family and Community Connections

Words & Wonders wasn't just about the kids—it was also about their families. Caregivers came together for Care Connections, where they set personal goals, connected with resources, and built community with one another. These gatherings reinforced the idea that when families thrive, youth thrive too.

Looking Ahead

We're carrying the momentum of summer forward. We will provide nearly 60 youth with weekly individualized support through in-school engagement, after-school learning, and social-emotional development. Our Family Success Team will work with nearly 200 caregivers and siblings, connecting them to wraparound services that promote family stability, mental and physical health, and skill-building. With Friends walking beside them, our youth are ready to step into classrooms with confidence, curiosity, and the support they need to thrive.





Self-Care Saturday

Every once in a while, it feels good to slow down, have fun, and focus on ourselves. That's exactly what happened during Self-Care Saturday, a special day just for our women mentors and the girls they walk alongside.

The goal was simple: to pause from the busyness of everyday life and focus on well-being. Together, our girls and their mentors spent the day reading, coloring, dressing up, snapping photos, and painting their nails. Each activity gave them a chance to relax, laugh, and explore new ways of caring for themselves.

For our girls, it wasn't just about the activities. It was about seeing their mentors modeling self-care and realizing that taking time for yourself is something to be proud of. For our mentors, it was about celebrating girlhood and creating joyful memories together.

It was also a time for celebration. Of girlhood, of sisterhood, and of the special relationships that grow when mentors and youth share experiences outside of the classroom and daily routines. Days like Self-Care Saturday remind us that mentorship is not just about academic success. It is also about building confidence, resilience, and joy that can last a lifetime.



From Arts and Play to Sports

Teamwork, Self-Regulation, and Curiosity

Every child deserves the chance to explore. To discover new passions, develop confidence, and grow through experiences that strengthen both the heart and mind.

This year, several of our Friends helped youth step into new worlds—from football fields and basketball courts to music festivals and art spaces. One of our youths proudly completed his first summer football league, learning what it means to work hard, stay committed, and be part of a team. Others picked up instruments for the very first time, performing at the Make Music Day Festival, where sounds of trumpets, violins, and laughter filled the air.

Through these moments—whether in sports, music, or play—youth are learning the deeper lessons of life: self-control, perseverance, emotional regulation, and curiosity.

Our Friends stand beside them through every high and low, helping them manage self-doubt, cope with disappointment after a loss, and celebrate victories with humility.

“Every child deserves the chance to explore and discover what they’re capable of.”

Each of these experiences is woven into the youth’s personal development goals. Teachers, caregivers, and Friends all see the impact: improved focus, stronger relationships, and growing confidence. Research and our daily experience show that exposure to arts, sports, and play helps positively shape young brains, strengthening social and emotional skills that last a lifetime.

Thanks to the generosity of our community partners and donors, every child can participate no matter their financial situation. Together, we’re building resilience, teamwork, and creativity in the next generation of leaders.



Did You Know?

- Participating in arts and sports helps strengthen youth focus, empathy, and emotional regulation.
- Friends Houston youth performed for the first time at the Make Music Day Festival, showcasing their creativity and courage.
- Exposure to structured play and teamwork activities builds essential life skills that prepare youth for success—both in school and beyond.



Kicking It

At Houston Dynamo Camp

This summer, several of our youth had the incredible opportunity to participate in a Houston Dynamo and Dash Soccer Camp, where teamwork, discipline, and confidence took center field.

Led by experienced and passionate coaches from the Houston Dynamo organization, the camps provided a safe, engaging environment for Houston youth to learn the fundamentals of soccer while also developing life skills that extend far beyond the game.

For many of our participants, it was their first time joining a sports camp. Each day, youth practiced dribbling, passing, and teamwork—learning that growth happens not just in goals scored, but in effort and persistence. Coaches emphasized resilience and communication—the same values Friends Houston reinforces in every mentoring relationship.

As the week went on, something special happened. Youth began cheering for one another, building confidence, and taking healthy risks. Parents and Friends noticed new sparks of motivation. Youth were not only more active, but more focused, positive, and proud of themselves.

A few even discovered a new passion for the game and are eager to keep playing.

“It wasn’t about soccer,” one Friend shared. “It was about belonging—and watching them believe in themselves.”

At Friends Houston, we know that when children are given new experiences and caring adults to guide them, they discover what’s possible—on the field and in life.



A Friendship Forged: Steffon, Jordan, and Marcus

When Steffon became a Friend at Friends Houston, he knew his role would be more than mentoring. It would be about building trust and showing up, no matter what.

At first, both Jordan* and Marcus* were quiet and reserved. Each had faced family challenges and periods of housing instability that made it hard to open up or connect. During their first outings, conversation was minimal — a few words here and there, but mostly silence.

Still, Steffon stayed consistent. He listened, observed, and looked for a spark, a way in. That breakthrough came one day when he brought a microphone and invited them to read aloud into it, later playing their voices back with background music.

When the boys heard themselves for the first time, something changed. Their eyes lit up. They laughed, smiled, and immediately wanted to do it again. What began as a creative literacy exercise became a doorway to confidence, expression, and trust.

*Names change for youth privacy



“They’ve come out of their shells and found comfort not just with me, but with each other. That’s what this work is all about.”

— Steffon, Friend

Recording sessions became a favorite activity. They experimented with rhythm and tone, taking turns reading stories and creating their own “music mixes.” Over time, their reading voices grew stronger—not just in sound, but in self-belief.

During one visit, Steffon gently asked Marcus if he had any friends. Marcus paused, then said, “No.” A few days later, when he asked Jordan the same question, Jordan admitted that it was hard for him to make friends.

That’s when Steffon had an idea. He brought them together for an activity they both loved: reading and recording. The connection was immediate. They laughed, encouraged each other, and began building a friendship of their own.

Today, their bond is unmistakable. They share a special handshake when they see each other and are quick to celebrate each other’s wins. Their teachers and families have also noticed the transformation. Both boys have become more expressive, confident, and engaged in school. Each has also made measurable gains in reading confidence and comprehension.



Recently, they completed their own vision boards, dreaming about the future they want to build. One hopes to become a police officer. The other wants to enlist in the military. Both dream of having families of their own one day—and both are learning that their voices, goals, and friendships matter.

“They’ve come out of their shells and found comfort not just with me, but with each other,” said Steffon. “That’s what this work is all about.”

At Friends Houston, we know mentoring doesn’t just connect children to Friends—it connects youth to one another, helping them see what’s possible and inspiring friendships that can last a lifetime.



**Youth and Friend name changed to protect privacy*



First Outing

Nova's Day to Shine

When Nova* and her family joined the Friends Houston program, they were excited — but also cautious. Like many families new to Friends, they wanted to understand what the program would mean for their child and how it would fit into their lives.

At first, Nova's family preferred that all visits take place at home. Her Friend, Zeyanna—or “Z,” as Nova lovingly calls her—began by meeting Nova in the living room and front yard, bringing along art projects, books, and games. Week after week, Z sat on the floor with Nova, reading stories, solving puzzles, and coloring side-by-side.

Slowly, the rest of the family began to join in, curious at first, then engaged, and soon participating fully in their own ways. Through her steady presence, patience, and warmth, Z built a bond not only with Isabella but with her entire family. They began to see her as part of their support system — someone who celebrated small wins, encouraged routines, and helped make learning fun again.

At Friends Houston, this is where every relationship begins. We believe that lasting impact comes from walking alongside both youth and their caregivers. Friends take time to understand each family's story, culture, and goals—listening first, and helping caregivers feel seen, respected, and supported. Whether it's sharing strategies for school success, celebrating milestones, or simply showing up consistently, these small acts of connection build trust and confidence over time.

After months of in-school visits and in-home activities, Nova's family was ready for the next step. They gave Z permission to take Nova on her first outing to the Friends Houston Clubhouse.

Nova was a little nervous at first. But when she walked through the doors, her eyes widened with excitement. She eagerly explored the space, pieced together a literacy puzzle, and learned new games. By the end of the visit, she was smiling, talking freely, and already asking when she could come back.

“It was a big moment for both of us,” said Z. “Trust is something you earn over time. That first outing meant they believed in me, and in us.”

Moments like these remind us that growth begins with relationships. One that starts at home, strengthens through trust, and blossoms into new experiences that help every child and family thrive.

*Name changed for youth privacy

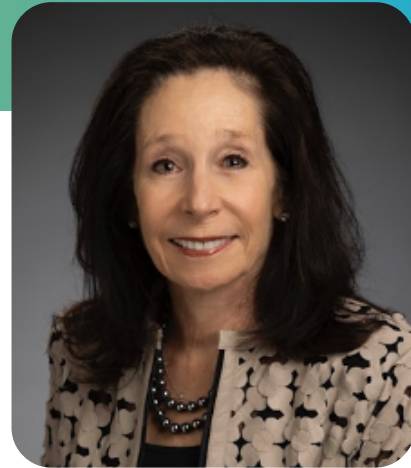
Letter From the Board Chair

Dear Friends,

As Board Chair of Friends of the Children – Houston, I am extremely proud to reflect on a year defined by growth, resilience, and the powerful difference your support has made in the lives of children and families across our community.

In just a few short years, Friends Houston has become a trusted and transformative presence in Greater Houston. In this last year, the organization doubled the number of youth and families served, strengthened partnerships with schools and community organizations, and continued to demonstrate what is possible when caring adults walk alongside children — no matter what. Our professional Friends provide mentorship, consistency, and compassion that change the trajectory of young lives.

Our chapter is joining in the launch of Literacy Uplifts, a cornerstone initiative that reinforces our belief that literacy is foundational to lifelong success. When children learn to read — and love to read — doors open to confidence, opportunity, and hope. This initiative, along with our continued focus on family well-being, represents the kind of thoughtful innovation that defines Friends Houston's approach.



As a Board, we are committed to ensuring the organization's long-term sustainability and continued growth. Together with our exceptional team, school, and community partners, and with support from our generous funders, we are building the framework for enduring impact — one that will support generations of children and families for years to come.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your partnership. You make it possible for us to continue this life-changing work. Every gift, every hour volunteered, and every word shared about our mission helps create a community where all children have the opportunity to dream, achieve, and thrive.

Nancy F. Atlas

Nancy F. Atlas
Board Chair
Friends of the Children – Houston

“Every gift, every hour volunteered, and every word shared about our mission helps create a community where all children have the opportunity to dream, achieve, and thrive.”

2025 Donors List

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to all of our generous donors. Your support has been instrumental in enabling Friends - Houston to serve the youth and families who need it most. Thanks to you, we are able to provide critical mentorship, resources, and programs that make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve. Your commitment to our mission is helping to build a brighter future for our community, and we are incredibly thankful for your partnership.

Thank you for believing in our work and for helping us make a difference!

Cynthia Adkins
Amir Allatabakhsh
American Online Giving Foundation, Inc.
Annunziato Family Foundation
Athleta
Nancy Atlas
Baxter Trust Private Foundation Services
Olivia Benitez
Judge Janice Berg
Kathleen Bertolatus
Pat Bodin
Blayne Bonham
Jane Bonham
Sipra Boyd
Stephani Bunting
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Chantel Citizen
Katy Civins
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Liz Craig
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Paul Lee
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Leon Maxie Jr
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Lee Newick
Danny Nguyen
Sylvia Nguyen
Nancy Pollard
Cordelia Price
Lisa Reed
Samuels Family Foundation
Saramco Foundation
Sarofim Foundation
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Eric Andrew and Victoria Ayers Schuler
Judy Schuler
Steven Shiels
Sarah Sims
Suzanne Sklar McCarthy
Louis Sklar
Kevin Smith
Andrew & Laura Sparks
Rudy & Natalie Starks
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The Brown Foundation, Inc
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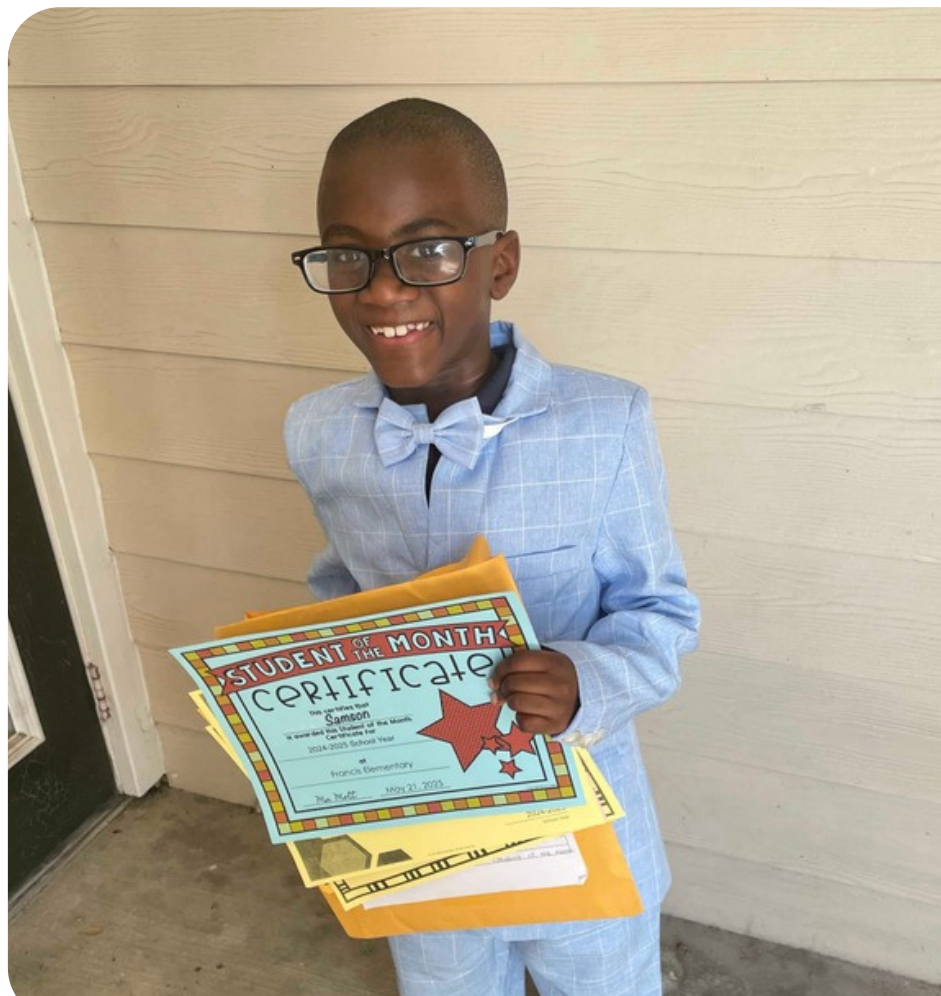
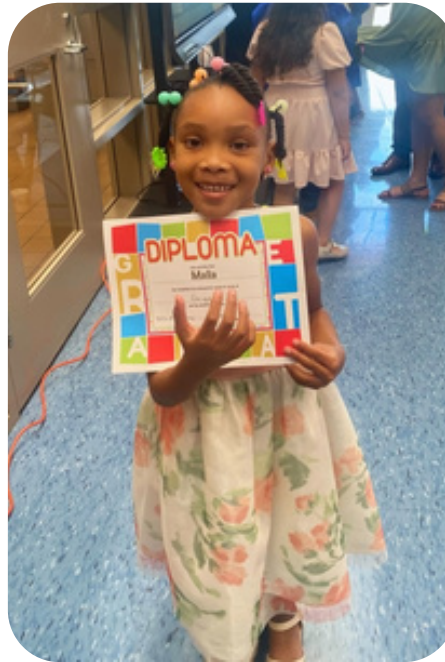
Comptroller, The Extension Foundation

Alison Young

Executive Director & Wealth Advisor, J.P. Morgan Wealth Management

Celebrating Our Youth

We're so proud of every child who worked hard, tried something new, and celebrated their achievements this year!



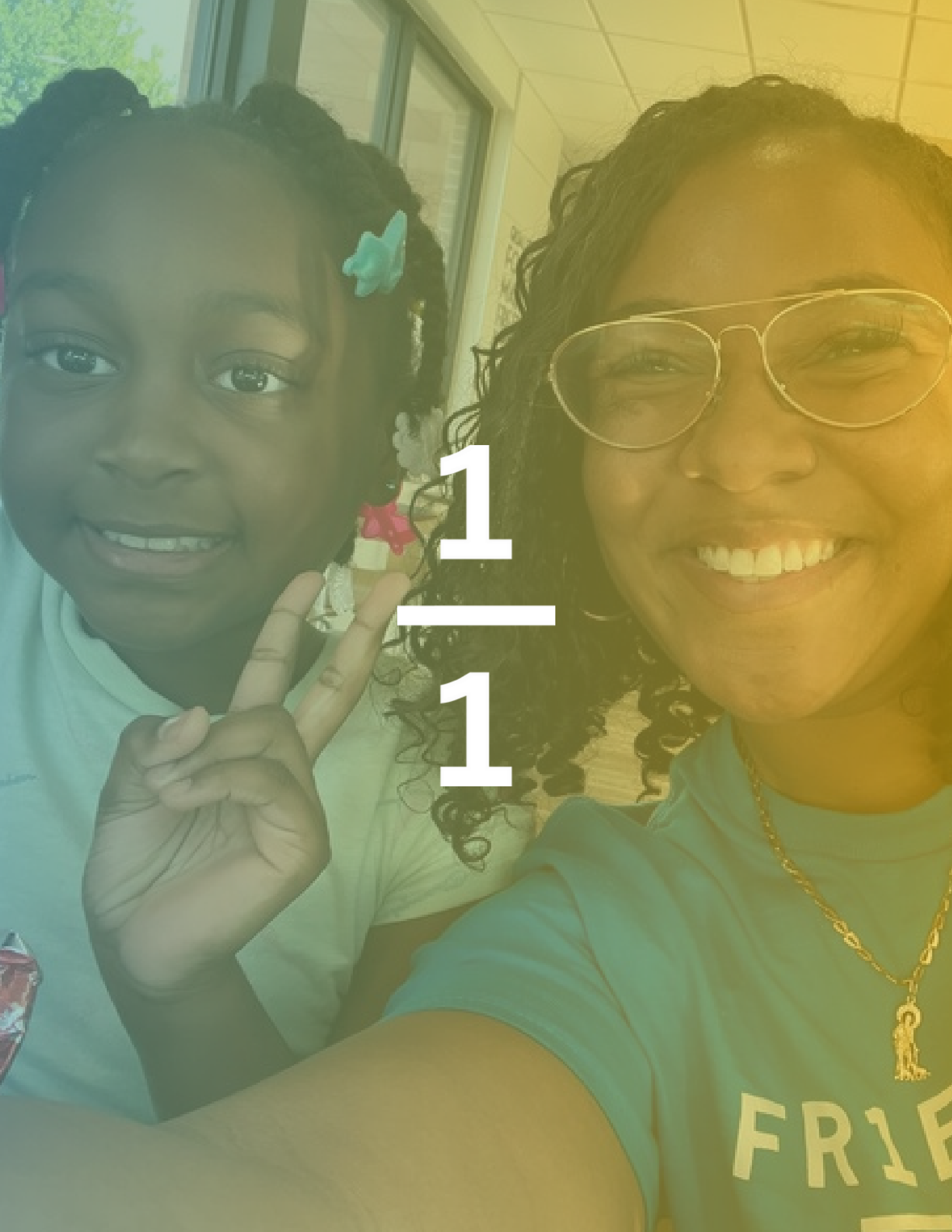


Pictured are some of the members of the Friends Houston staff team (from left to right): Steffon, Samuel, Lawren, Barbara, Zeyanna, Tre, Tiffanie, Sara, Lourdes, Gabriel

"Friends Houston has been a life saver for our family, I do not know where my son and our family would be without their support"

– Parent, Friends Houston Youth

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CH1LDREN
Houston



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FRIE



FRIENDS of the CHILDREN

Houston

5535 Memorial Drive Suite F
Houston, TX 77007

(713) 364-5585
Champions@friendshtx.org
friendshtx.org

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