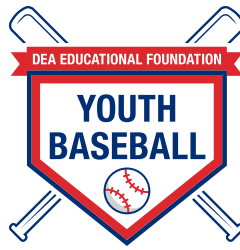
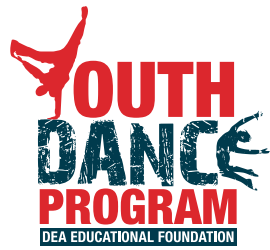




# DEA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



The DEA Educational Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to drug prevention education.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|    |  |    |                            |
|----|--|----|----------------------------|
| 1  | Message from the President & CEO         | 17 | Youth Martial Arts Program |
| 2  | Board Spotlight                          | 23 | DEAEF + DEA Partnership    |
| 3  | LPGA/Board Meeting 2025                  | 30 | DEAEF Community Education  |
| 5  | Smile Campaign                           | 34 | In Memoriam                |
| 6  | DEAEF Youth Programs and Community Reach | 37 | On The Horizon             |
| 8  | Youth Dance Program                      | 38 | Giving to the Foundation   |
| 13 | Youth Baseball Program                   | 40 | Recognition & Thanks       |

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michele Leonhart, *Chair of the Board*  
Jill L. Roberts, *President and CEO*  
Lewis Rice, *Secretary*  
Daniel Staffieri, *Treasurer*  
Thomas Harrigan  
Jessica Hulsey  
Carl Jenkins  
Colleen Maloof  
Helen Mars  
EJ Milken  
Carol Safir  
Haywood Talcove  
Sue Thau  
Walter Wang  
Michael Yamaki

## EX-OFFICIO

Charles Blau  
Robert Bonner  
Scott Canales  
Richard Crock  
Jon DeLena  
Marshall Fisher  
Asa Hutchinson  
Paul Knierim  
John C. Lawn  
Donnie R. Marshall  
James McGivney  
Francis B. Mullen  
Kevin Sabet  
Timothy Shea  
Jason Sundby  
Karen Tandy

## EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jill L. Roberts, *President and CEO*  
Amy Danos, *Director of Special Events and Grant Management*  
Jonathan Kapaldo, *Design and IT Consultant*  
Julie Kaphing, *Administrative and Communication Officer*  
Lois Ludwikowski, *Executive Office Consultant*  
Sarah Pullen, *Community Outreach Manager*  
Colleen Whelan, *Special Projects Coordinator*

## YOUTH & COMMUNITY PROGRAM STAFF

Kiera Anderson, *Youth Program Consultant*  
Cristine Dhimos, *Regional Director*  
Pete Harbolick, *Regional Manager Youth Baseball*  
Meredith Liepelt, *Project Consultant and Staff Writer*  
Michele Morris, *Training Director, DEAEF Youth Programs and Regional Manager*  
Christina Ruiz Pastras, *Associate Director Youth Programs and Regional Manager*  
Allison Tanaka, *Regional Manager*  
Rick Zeitlin, *National Director of Youth Baseball and Sports Consultant*

**A**t times the challenges in 2025 felt bigger than what any one person or even organization could tackle.

Several members of the DEA Educational Foundation (DEAEF) were affected by the Southern California wildfires, the DEAEF was devastated by the loss of four influential board members, the whole country was challenged with a lengthy government shutdown and youth continued to face stressors from this fast-paced world. Yet, in spite of these obstacles and heartaches, the good news of the DEA Educational Foundation accomplishments continued to shine through the smiles we saw each day in the youth we reached. I often think of how challenging things must be for our country's youth, but then I remember a favorite childhood quote by Winnie the Pooh, "It makes such a difference to have someone who believes in you." Every day our DEAEF heroes stand by our youth and believe in them; their resiliency and ability to live meaningful, happy and fulfilling lives.

At the end of 2025, the DEAEF reflected upon the past year of successes in providing drug prevention education and healthy outlets to our youth and communities. In addition to the smiles we instilled, the DEAEF reached a key milestone of reaching youth in 100 cities within a one-year period and continued to build upon our valuable partnerships in the community. Provisional 2025 data from the CDC shows overdose deaths declined by roughly 24.5%.

The collective efforts of our foundation program leaders and partners in the field focusing on scientific research, public safety, treatment and recovery, mental health, and prevention education, such as the work led by the DEAEF, are making a difference.

Although we had a significant number of successes, 2025 also presented some heartache. In 2025 we lost our beloved

"It makes such a difference to have someone who believes in you."

DEA Educational Foundation Founder, Bill Alden, along with three special board members who were instrumental in the creation of the DEAEF. They will be missed terribly, but each day the DEAEF staff and I vow to honor their legacy and carry the torch in saving a child's life, one step at a time.

As we enter into 2026, the DEA Educational Foundation will be honoring 25 years of impact; reflecting on our legacy and celebrating our future! Throughout 2026, we will reflect on our foundation that was built on vision and purpose. We will celebrate our important partnership with DEA and all the partnerships we have fostered with community organizations throughout the country. We will reminisce about our



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

**Jill L. Roberts**

successful youth and community drug prevention programs that reach, inspire and protect. We will honor the resilience and success of our youth working to reach their goals. The years ahead call for continued evolution, expanded reach, and renewed resolve. We will celebrate the dedication of our amazing board, staff, instructors and coaches as they continue to be the mentors who believe in our youth as they continue to grow.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill L. Roberts".

President & CEO  
DEA Educational Foundation

**ACCOMPLISHED**

DEAEF REACHED  
**100 cities**

**100,000+**  
INDIVIDUALS

**2025**



**C**arol Safir is the President of November Group, LTD, a real estate investment company she founded in 1996. Although she holds degrees in secondary education, her career has focused on business leadership and community involvement. She was drawn to the DEA Educational Foundation because of its mission to provide young people with positive alternatives to drug culture through education, life-skills development, and engaging programs. She is proud to support the

Foundation’s work and advance its mission. Her husband, Howard Safir, had a distinguished law enforcement career as a federal agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and later served as New York City Police Commissioner. Due to Carol’s and Howard’s lifelong commitment to service and community, Carol and her children have recently established the Howard and Carol Safir Foundation to continue their legacy and commitment to public safety.

## Board Spotlight

CAROL SAFIR

“ Being a part of the DEA Educational Foundation for over two decades has been a highlight in my philanthropic work. The after-school prevention education programs provided to our country’s youth are critical for mentorship, well-being and healthy futures.”

## DEAEF Board Member Walter Wang Makes Next Contribution in Multi-year Pledge

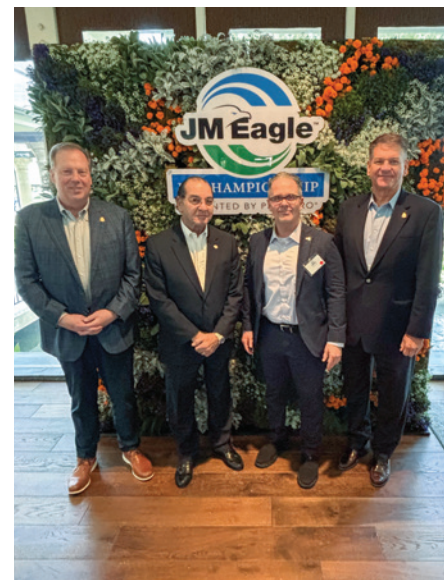
**D**EAEF Board Member Walter Wang pledged \$1.25 million in 2021, to help expand the reach of the DEAEF Youth Programs over a five year period.

This summer, Mr. Wang sent a fourth contribution in the amount of \$250,000 allowing the Foundation to continue its expansion into new schools and youth program sites across the country. Mr. Wang, a member of the DEAEF Board of Directors since 2011, has been one of the most generous supporters of DEAEF Youth Programs helping the Foundation to grow its reach to 100 cities nationwide. Also, due to Mr. Wang’s multi-year commitment to the LPGA through the JM Eagle LA Championship and strong interest in introducing youth to the sport of golf, the DEAEF has developed a partnership with the Bud Carson Middle School in Hawthorne, CA, supporting their youth golf team.



“ Walter Wang’s generous contribution comes at a critical time in our nation, where drug overdoses remain high and out-of-school programming for youth is fading. ... Our programs will reach thousands of additional youth due to Walter’s generous pledge through our educational launch assemblies and long-term classes for students paving the way for a brighter future and saving a child’s life, ‘one step at a time!’”

**Jill L. Roberts**  
President & CEO  
DEA Educational Foundation



## 2025 Annual Board Meeting

In April, the DEAEF kicked off a week-long event with a dinner at Il Moderno hosted by DEAEF board member Haywood Talcove and friends at LexisNexis Risk Solutions. The DEAEF also held our annual board meeting at the El Caballero Country Club in collaboration with the LPGA JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro in Los Angeles from April 17-20th. Thank you to the board members who joined us in-person and virtually! We are

grateful to Sean Fearn, Chief of DEA Community Outreach, who delivered an update on DEA and Community Outreach programs. Thanks to board member Kevin Sabet, for his informative presentation on policy updates. Big shout outs to the amazing Outlyr team, David Tucker, Vice President, Megan Herrera, Director, and Katie Williams, Sponsor Services Coordinator. We cannot thank Deterra enough for their continued support and sponsorship,

as well as the DEA Los Angeles Field Division for their support and continued partnership.

DEAEF board members also attended the Women's Leadership Luncheon presented by J.P. Morgan where Shirley Wang, CEO of Tournament Presenting Sponsor Plastpro, Inc., gave opening remarks and introduced NBC LA Investigative Reporter & Anchor, Lolita Lopez, President & CEO of the LA

Sports & Entertainment Commission, Kathryn Schloessman, Assistant Director of NIL for UCLA Athletics, Maddie Walsh, five-time Olympic gold medalist, Nastia Liukin, and LPGA Professional, Sophia Popov. The inspirational conversation focused on how industry female leaders are leveraging their personal brands to make a vital impact and drive innovation in sports and entertainment.

Representing the DEAEF team, DEA Los Angeles Field Division (LAFD) members and our partners then participated in the ProAm Tournament with LPGA professionals. The DEAEF, DEA LA

Field Division, and Deterra hosted an exhibition tent in the Expo Village throughout the tournament where informational packages on drug misuse were handed out along with information on the DEAEF's drug education afterschool programs. We are grateful to LPGA professional Nasa Hataoka for stopping by our table and supporting our mission. The DEAEF and Deterra also returned as sponsors to the Heroes Outpost, a hospitality tent dedicated to military personnel and first responders. Thank you JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro and thank you Deterra® Drug Deactivation.

“ I am personally so thankful to our board members who continue to support the DEAEF’s mission and promote new ideas to pave the way for the future.”

Jill L. Roberts



 FOLLOW US ON  
Instagram  
@deaedfoundation





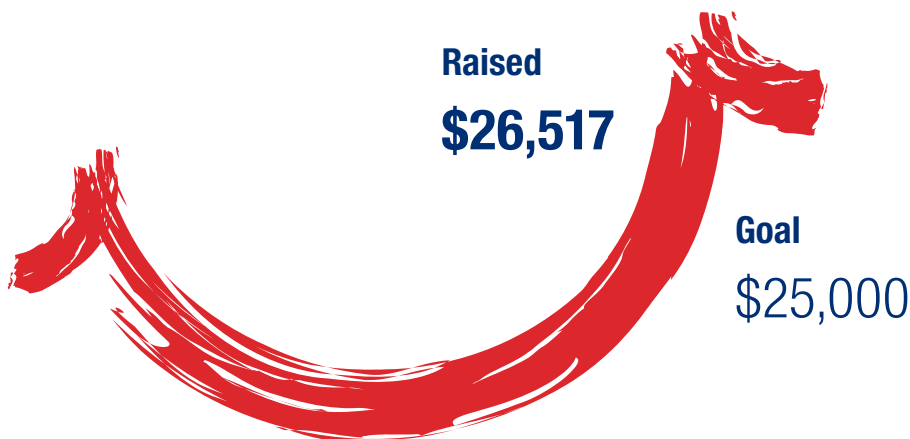
## Smile Campaign

The DEA Educational Foundation continues to bring smiles to youth across the country! In developing our strategies for 2025, the DEAEF team spoke about what WE can do to make a difference and be the reason someone smiles today. A smile symbolizes happiness and well-being, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Wonderful news! The DEAEF Smile Campaign held during the month of August was a tremendous success! We exceeded our goal of \$25,000. Your generosity will allow us to reach new sites and hundreds of additional youth on our waitlist! We hope for continuous and never ending smiles throughout the school year and beyond.

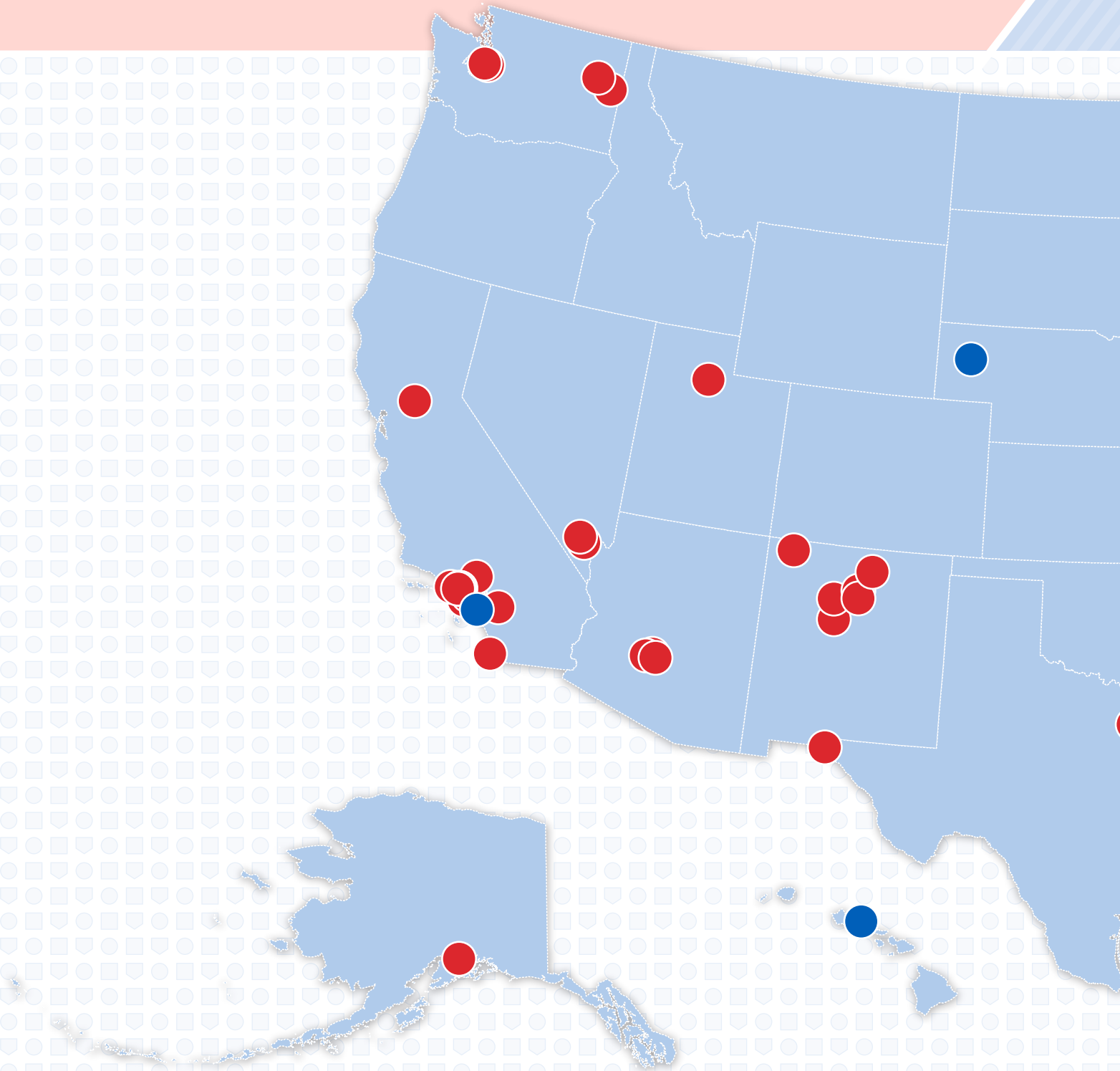
## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS!

- Howard and Carol Safir Foundation
- Infinity Theatre Company
- LexisNexis Risk Solutions
- Alliant/Scott Canales
  
- Jacqui Bell
- Barbara Erdahl
- Tom Harrigan
- Jerry and Julie Kaphing
- John and Natalia Koudsi
- Lois Ludwikowski
- Andrew Malanga
- Cori Moore
- Lee Nicks
- Tom Olive
- Joe and Jill Piscatella
- Ronald Provencher
- Lewis Rice
- The Vaughan Family
- Douglas Yeuell



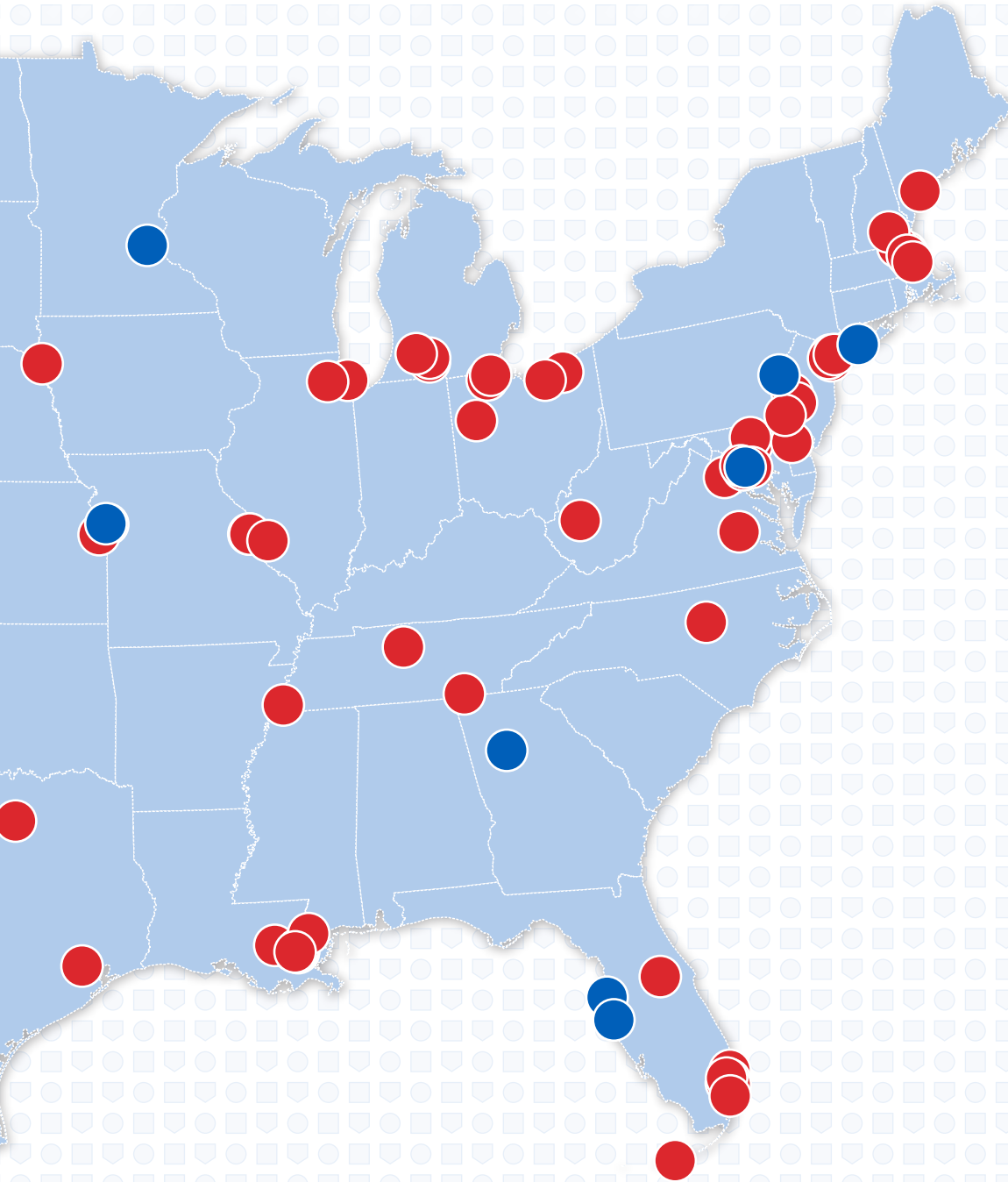


# REACHED 100 cities 2025





# GOAL 100+ cities 2026

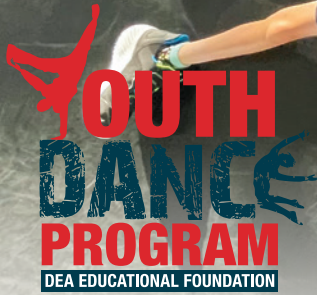


## ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS IN 2025

- Country Music Awards (CMAS)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS)
- Online
- Taiwan

● 2025

● 2026  
(IN DEVELOPMENT)



## Year in Review

**T**he DEAEF Youth Dance Program continues to be the most popular youth program and model for all of the Foundation's other youth programs, now reaching 56 cities across the country. For nearly 15 years the Youth Dance Program has provided a positive outlet, team building, exercise and a place for artistic expression for America's youth. In addition to providing a safe afterschool activity and strong mentorship, the DEAEF Youth Dance Program is also a key platform for our drug prevention education. Students in dozens of cities learned dance styles such as ballet, hip-hop, jazz, tap, cultural dance and more. In addition, dance was incorporated into our youth

opioid prevention youth trainings with Big Brothers Big Sisters and at several regional camps and on larger stages, such as the Overton Park Shell in Memphis.

We also continued our important partnership through dance with DEA Operation Engage throughout the United States. With the support of the DEA Field Divisions we connected DEA Agents and educators with youth through launch assemblies, final demonstrations and class visits. These programs reached both urban and rural areas and many with community engaging cultural dance.

In 2026, we anticipate the DEAEF Youth Dance Program reaching 60 cities nationwide and our waitlist continues to grow. We are thankful to our talented and dedicated dance companies and instructors and we look forward to continuing our mission of *Empowering Youth, One Step at a Time!*

### ACCOMPLISHED

REACHED **56 cities** **2025**

### GOAL

OVER **60+ cities** **2026**



# Youth Dance Program Cities

## 2025

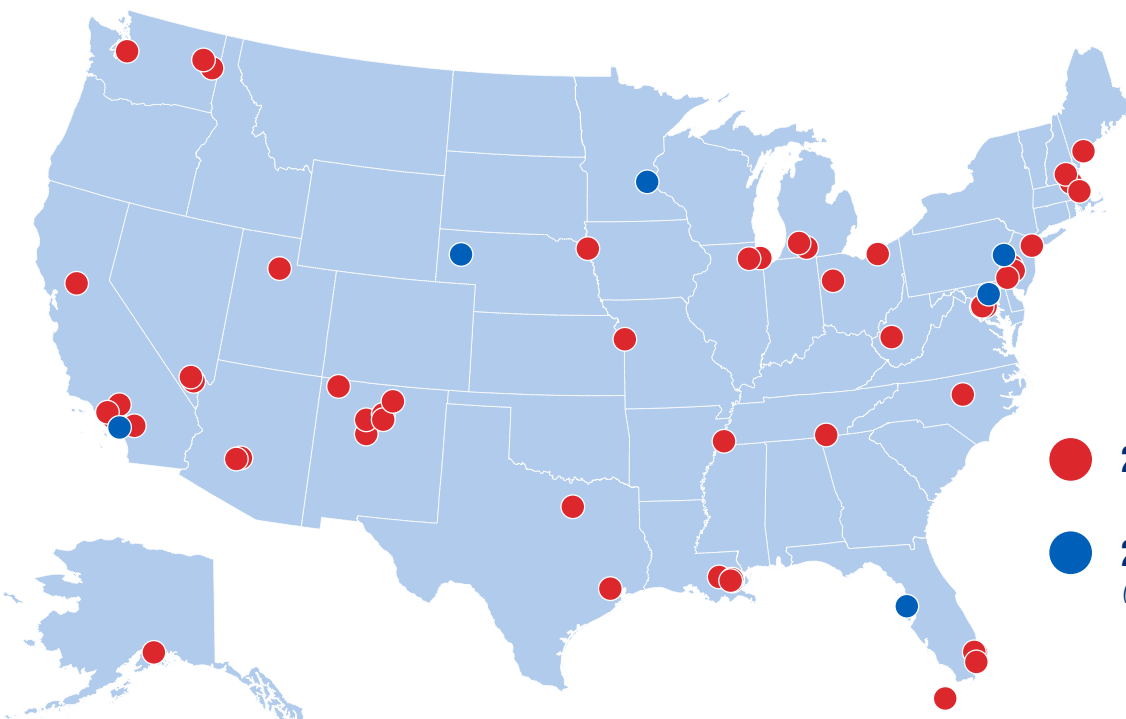
- Albuquerque, NM
- Ambler, PA
- Anchorage, AK
- Arlington, VA
- Athens, MI
- Cary/Raleigh, NC
- Charleston, WV
- Chattanooga, TN
- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX
- District Heights, MD
- Eagle Rock, CA
- Farmington, NM
- Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Garyville, LA
- Glendale, AZ
- Goodyear, AZ
- Gretna, LA
- Harvey, LA
- Henderson, NV
- Houston, TX
- Kalamazoo, MI
- Kansas City, MO
- Las Vegas, NV
- Lauderdale Lakes, FL
- Lima, OH
- Los Angeles, CA
- Lowell, MA
- Miami, FL
- Manchester, NH
- Memphis, TN
- Moreno Valley, CA
- New Orleans, LA
- New York, NY
- Palmdale, CA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Portland, ME
- Pueblo of Jemez, NM
- Pueblo of Nambe, NM
- Quincy, MA
- Randolph, MA
- Renton, WA
- Sacramento, CA
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Santa Fe, NM
- Sioux City, IA
- Spokane, WA
- Taos, NM
- Washington, DC
- Wellpinit, WA
- Westwego, LA
- West Chicago, IL
- Wilmington, DE
- Winnetka, CA
- Many other youth through our work with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

## 2026 (IN DEVELOPMENT)

- Allentown, PA
- Alliance, NE
- Baltimore, MD
- Minneapolis, MN
- Orange County, CA
- Port Richey, FL

“We’re here to make a difference. Music pulls everyone together, and through dance, we’re teaching kids how to make good choices and how to say no. It’s a message they need now more than ever.”

**Cathy Richard**  
Granite State Dance Center Director



**● 2025**  
**● 2026**  
*(IN DEVELOPMENT)*



# Youth Dance Program Companies

In 2025, the DEAEF Youth Dance Program partnered with:

- Artivism Dance
- Atiya Dance Academy
- Ballet Legato
- Culture Shock Chicago
- Culture Shock Las Vegas
- Culture Shock Los Angeles
- Dance 10
- Dancing Earth
- EmiArteFlamenco
- Equilibrium Dance
- Exit Space
- Fearlyss Journey Movement
- Granite State Dance Center
- Hip Hop ConnXion
- Hip Hop Fundamentals
- Honor Dance
- Houston Ballet
- Lyn's Dance Academy
- Mosaic Dance
- Moving Arts Española
- New Ballet Ensemble
- No Easy Props
- Owen Cox
- Polynesian Association of Alaska
- Portland Youth Dance
- River City Youth Ballet
- Samba Fogo
- Texas Ballet Theater
- The Dance School
- Trinity Dance
- Many individual professional artists from around the country.

## Program Staff

- Jill L. Roberts, *President & CEO/Youth Dance Program Founder*
- Lois Ludwikowski, *Executive Office Consultant*
- Michèle Morris, *Training Director, DEAEF Youth Programs and Regional Manager*
- Sarah Pullen, *Community Outreach Manager*
- Christina Pastras, *Associate Director, DEAEF Youth Programs and Regional Manager*
- Kiera Anderson, *Project Consultant*
- Cristine Dhimos, *Regional Director*
- Meredith Liepelt, *Project Consultant and Staff Writer*
- Allison Tanaka, *Regional Manager*

## THANK YOU

### MAJOR DONORS

- Michael and Lori Milken Foundation
- University of IA Dance Club
- C&S Wholesale Grocers
- Walter and Shirley Wang
- Many individuals

### PARTNERS

- DEA Operation Engage



**E**lizabeth Lau is a motivating force in Portland's dance community. For 16 years, Elizabeth has taught dance in Maine and now serves as the Director of Community Programs for Portland Youth Dance and is a teaching artist

## Instructor Spotlight

ELIZABETH LAU

at Casco Bay Movers. She also hosts The Exchange, a Hip Hop event uniting dancers from across Maine and New England. Since 2021, Portland Youth Dance has also partnered with the DEA Educational Foundation, bringing a free summer dance program to youth in Portland focusing on a positive and healthy outlet. Elizabeth has seen firsthand how this space transforms young people, especially the recent surge of boys discovering dance for the first time, making them more confident and learning to work as a team.



“Participating in the DEAF Youth Dance summer programs at Granite State Dance Center over the years has helped encourage me to be a leader. I have learned so much about how to stand up for myself and to be confident in my choices of saying no to drugs. When I was presented with the opportunity to showcase how much the DEAF program has helped me, I immediately seized the opportunity. Winning the scholarship let me be able to continue my dance career. Through time I have decided that I wanted to be a dance teacher and having the scholarship money to take the dance classes that helped me accelerate in my studies meant that I would be more prepared for what’s to come in the future. I have extremely benefited from the

“I’m so thankful to the DEAF Youth Dance Program and all the opportunities that went with it.”

opportunities that have been presented to me because of the scholarship. My dance skills and techniques have improved and that is with the help of the scholarship which allows me to participate in more dance classes.”

#### Tori

*Senior Class of 2026  
DEAF YDP Scholarship Recipient*



## Youth Spotlight

TORI

## Dancing into Confidence

**W**hat began as a brand-new program for both the Foundation and the Ballet Legato dance company quickly became a beloved fixture in the school community. Since 2019, students in North Ridgeville, OH elementary schools have had the chance to grow with the program.

The classes are led by Isabella Muselin, who has a gift for connecting with kids. Each school year includes two 10-week sessions, culminating in performances where students proudly wear their DEAF YDP t-shirts and receive certificates of completion. In partnership with the DEAF YDP, Ballet Legato also offers themed summer camps built around fun themes like superheroes or “Wizards and Wicked,” so kids can stay engaged and creative even when school’s out.

**READ**   
FULL STORY

“It is cool to see the students who started to grow with us through the years. They come up and hug you and now have some knowledge of dance.”

**Isabella Muselin**  
*Company Dancer*





# Empowering Youth through Dance and Martial Arts

Every year, the DEA Educational Foundation's National Scholarship Programs/Awards help instill a promising journey in dance or martial arts: pathways that inspire confidence, discipline, and a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

With \$1,000 allocated annually to each Regional Director and Regional Manager, these scholarships are awarded to students already participating in DEAEF's year-round classes through trusted community partners including local dance studios and martial arts schools dedicated to the DEAEF's mission.

“The DEAEF has taught me to say no to drugs and to choose the right path instead of making myself sick and risking my life for something that is worthless and could ruin everything.”  
  
Isabella



**READ**   
FULL STORY

# Dancing Toward Connection

In January, the Mosaic Dance Company held a Youth Dance Program (YDP) kick-off assembly at Donovan Elementary in Randolph, MA. Dance Instructor Katie Suyematsu, former company director and longtime instructor Henry Kasdon and several dancers from Mosaic Dance Company led a fabulous performance inspiring creativity, healthy lifestyles and a sense of belonging for the youth. At the conclusion of the assembly, interested students from Donovan Elementary signed up for weekly dance classes with Instructor Katie. Her personal journey with dance reflects the power of the art form to create safe spaces and opportunities for growth.



“Growing up, home was not always a happy place to be. Dance became my safe space. It gave me structure, discipline, and the ability to process tough emotions creatively.”  
  
Katie Suyematsu  
Dance Instructor



## Year in Review

In the spring of 2025, the Foundation celebrated its 6 year anniversary of the Youth Baseball Program! The Program uses baseball as a vehicle to reach youth nationwide with the message of the importance of focusing on healthy activities and remaining drug-free.

In 2025, over 1,350 students across 24 cities enjoyed this energetic and team building sport! Hundreds of additional kids have participated in drug awareness assemblies and events provided by the DEA Educational Foundation Youth Baseball Program. The Foundation’s National Director of Youth Baseball and Sports Consultant, Multi Region Coach, Rick Zeitlin, and Regional Manager and Multi Region Coach, Peter Harbolick, have been instrumental in the success of the program.

Our coaches are strong mentors who focus not only on teaching baseball skills and sportsmanship, but also on resisting peer-pressure, building self-esteem, and choosing healthy lifestyles. One of our long-term partners, the Educational Program Coordinator from Sankofa Inner Culture League said, “I just wanted you to know that your work matters. You’ve planted seeds that continue to grow long after the final inning. Thank you for being a steady, positive presence in the lives of our youth—for being the kind of coach and role model that helps shape not just better players, but better people.” It is the DEAEF’s goal to provide knowledge that will benefit children for a lifetime in resisting drugs and choosing positive behavior! DEAEF National Director Coach Zeitlin’s belief is that “Connection

and a sense of trust and safety is what we can do to make a difference and make someone’s day.”

The Youth Baseball Program expanded its reach in 2025, adding several national programs, thanks to our important partnerships with the CTBC Anti-Drug Educational Foundation, CTBC U.S. Branch, The Geraty Family, Walter Wang and DEA’s Operation Engage. Representatives from DEA visited Youth Baseball Programs across the country to support students in their goals of a drug-free, healthy lifestyle. Participating students were given gloves, hats, backpacks, shirts, and balls. We are so grateful to these partners for allowing us to provide an exciting sport that promotes fitness, self-confidence and teamwork.

### ACCOMPLISHED

REACHED **2025**  
24 cities

### GOAL

**2026**  
27+ cities



# Program Staff

- Rick Zeitlin, *National Director of Youth Baseball and Sports Consultant, Multi Region Coach*
- Peter Harbolick, *Regional Manager and Multi Region Coach*
- Shahir Gates, *Delaware Coach*
- Kevin Ramirez, *NYC Coach*
- Christina Drago, *NYC Coach*
- Roben Sieling, *Washington, DC Coach*
- Chris Scarff, *CA Coach*
- Lisa Zeitlin, *CA Coach*
- Tamera Hunter, *OH Coach*
- Kodie McCully, *OH Coach*
- Dave Street, *OH Coach*
- Frank Rugg, *MI Coach*
- Alex Flores, *CA Coach*
- Alex Duque, *NY Coach*
- Calvin Washington, *PA Coach*
- Dustin Moore, *VA Coach*
- Linda Amarante, *WA Coach*
- Patrick Tucker, *OH Coach*
- Corey Scharer, *OH Coach*
- Jeremy Tecktiel, *WA Coach*
- Luke Doughan, *PA Coach*
- William Rehl, *PA Coach*
- Jason Zaro, *NY Coach*
- Patrick Wayne, *OH Coach*
- Brandon McCreary, *MO Coach*
- Brandon Sierra, *MO Coach*
- Joe Glorioso, *IL Coach*
- Joe Hermosillo, *TX Coach*

# Youth Baseball Program Cities

## 2025

- Astoria, NY
- Athens, MI
- Brooklyn, NY
- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Dover, DE
- El Paso, TX
- Kalamazoo, MI
- Kent, WA
- Los Angeles, CA
- Lowell, MA
- Moreno Valley, CA
- Maumee, OH
- New York, NY
- Philadelphia, PA
- Reseda, CA
- Richmond, VA
- Seattle, WA
- Spokane, WA
- St. Louis, MO
- Toledo, OH
- Washington, DC
- Wellpinit, WA
- Wilmington, DE

## 2026 (IN DEVELOPMENT)

- Honolulu, HI
- Long Island, NY
- Orange County, CA
- Orlando, FL

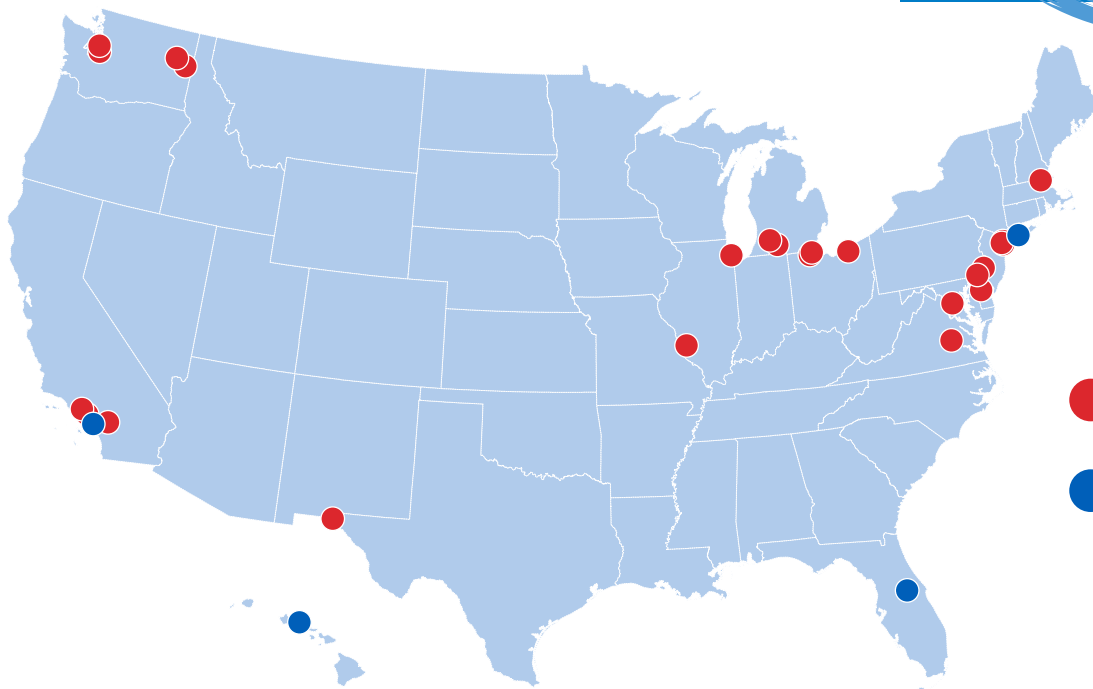
# THANK YOU

## MAJOR DONORS



**CTBC ANTI-DRUG EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

- CTBC Bank USA
- Geraty Family
- Walter Wang



- 2025
- 2026 (IN DEVELOPMENT)



## Youth Spotlight

### NOAH AND OWEN

Noah and Owen, age 9, were thrilled to participate in the Fort Miami Elementary baseball camp in Maumee with Coach Rick and Coach Corey. This program was part of the DEAEF's partnership with DEA Detroit Operation Engage. Both really enjoyed being able to have fun while learning new skills and have said they want the program to come back to their school! Their mother told us, "They had such a great time! Every day they were excited to tell me everything they learned." Noah and Owen plan to continue their baseball adventures with the Maumee Little League.



## Coach Spotlight

### CALVIN WASHINGTON

Coach Calvin Washington, an incredible mentor with the DEA Educational Foundation, has been coaching for three years! His favorite part of coaching is watching kids gain confidence and success—both on and

off the field. With a strong baseball background, Coach Calvin played throughout high school, competed in Legion Baseball, and has been an active player and commissioner in a men's recreation league since 2014. His experience and passion for the game shine through and carry on to those he coaches in everything he does. Known for his patience, hands-on approach, and problem-solving skills, Coach Calvin is dedicated to helping young athletes work hard and grow in a sport he loves.

"I want to reach out to Coach Rick and say thank you for hosting the children's baseball clinic at G.W. Childs. My son in Ms. DeJesse's third grade class absolutely loved it! He has now fallen in love with baseball and would really like to get signed up for lessons or a team once the season starts up. . . . Thanks again for hosting such a beneficial program for the kids."

Parent  
Philadelphia, PA



## Baseball Thrives at Payne Elementary

Since spring 2020, thanks to the generous support from the CTBC Anti-Drug Educational Foundation, the baseball field at Payne Elementary School in Washington, D.C., has been alive with energy, teamwork, and the unmistakable sound of bats cracking and kids cheering. Serving students in grades 2–5, Payne’s twice-a-week, 10-week baseball program has quickly become one of the most popular

extracurricular activities at the school. So much so that there’s always a waiting list to join. And, the history of the DEAEF’s work at Payne Elementary goes back even further! Payne Elementary hosted the very first DEAEF Youth Dance Program nationwide in 2012! The Foundation is thrilled to continue the partnership through the baseball program.

“Seeing their faces light up when they make a great play or learn something new is what keeps me coming back. Baseball taught me discipline, teamwork, and resilience and now I get to pass those lessons on.”

Coach Julian



## Sunnymead Middle School YBP reached Ten Seasons

Since 2020, the DEAEF Youth Baseball Program (YBP) at Sunnymead Middle School in Moreno Valley, CA has become the school’s most sought-after after-school activity. Rick Zeitlin, DEAEF’s YBP Regional Director was the driving force behind the program’s inception. Rick connected with Assistant Vice Principal Ken Carson who immediately recognized the potential for Sunnymead Middle School to be a perfect fit. From there, math teacher and baseball enthusiast Chris Scarff, newly returned from teaching in China,



and Alexander Flores, a school janitor with a love for the game, stepped up to coach under Zeitlin’s direction. Together, they’ve led the program for all ten seasons—offering students in grades 6 through 8 a chance to develop their skills on and off the field.

Sunnymead Middle School’s YBP operates in the fall and spring seasons with a full roster of 23 students. Students

must meet certain GPA and attendance criteria, emphasizing the program’s commitment to fostering discipline and responsibility. The program provides students with gloves, hats, T-shirts, baseballs and occasionally, baseball bags. Additionally, the coaches and DEAEF staff create memorable experiences including pizza parties and tickets to independent professional baseball games.



## Year In Review

**The fall of 2025 marked the 6 year anniversary of our popular Martial Arts Program!**

The DEAEF Youth Martial Arts Program started in 2019, thanks to the strong interest from DEAEF Board Member Walter Wang and DEA's 360 Strategy. The program was so successful, DEAEF Youth Martial Arts has continued to expand with Operation Engage, as well as through our national youth program funding. Students love the program, which bridges prevention messaging with a healthy outlet, strength building physically and mentally, discipline, self-confidence, teamwork and focus. In 2025 the program reached 24 cities and continues to expand with a goal of reaching Baltimore, MD, Northern Washington and Orange County, CA in 2026.

“This program not only teaches children the importance of self defense but it also teaches them how to listen, follow instructions, speak in front of peers, work through hard problems and face challenges that may scare them.”

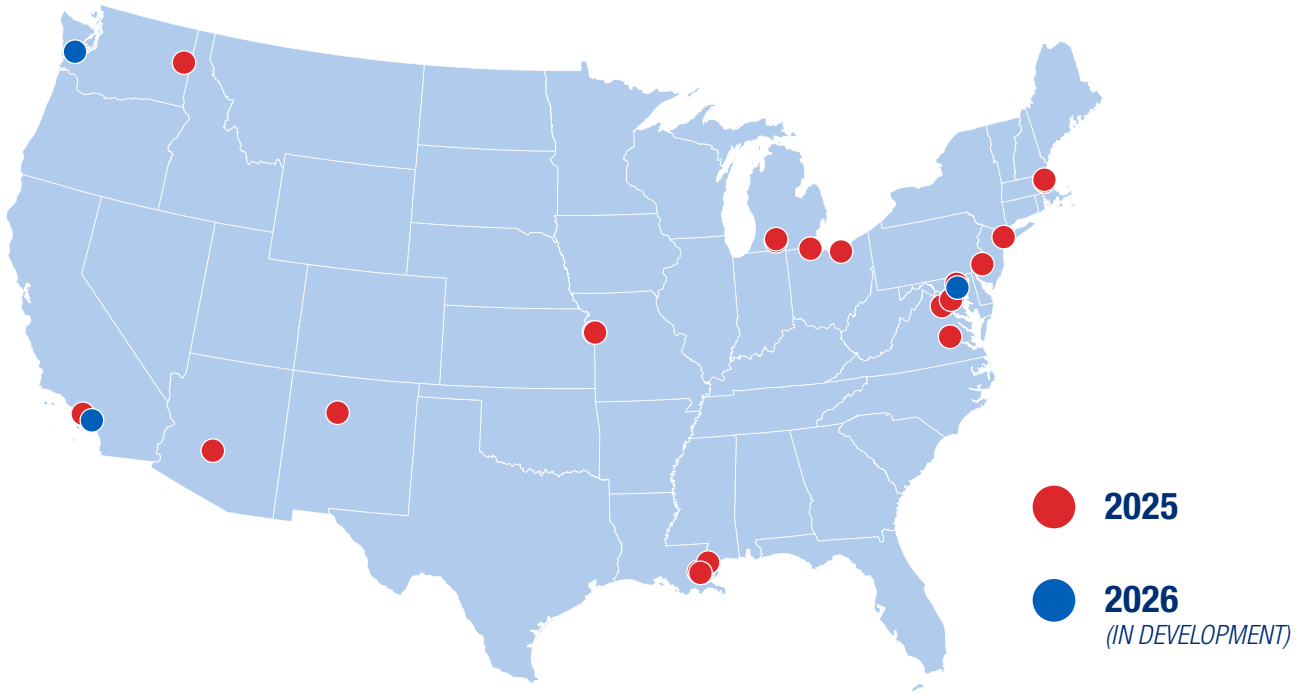
**Bryan Carroll**  
*Instructor*

### ACCOMPLISHED

REACHED **2025**  
*24 cities*

### GOAL

*27+ cities* **2026**



## Youth Martial Arts Program Cities

### 2025

- Athens, MI
- Bristow, VA
- East Leroy, MI
- Glendale, AZ
- Gretna, LA
- Hawthorne, CA
- Hyattsville, MD
- Kansas City, KS
- Kansas City, MO
- Medford, MA
- New Orleans, LA
- North Ridgeville, OH

- Philadelphia, PA
- Pueblo of Jemez, NM
- Queens/Flushing, NY
- Richmond, VA
- River Ridge, LA
- Slidell, LA
- Spokane, WA
- Stoneham, MA
- Timonium, MD
- Toledo, OH
- Washington, DC
- Westwego, LA
- Many other youth through our work with Big Brothers Big Sisters

### 2026 (IN DEVELOPMENT)

- Baltimore, MD
- Elma, WA
- Orange County, CA

## Partners

- BJJ Academy
- Jung Kim Martial Arts
- Kaizen Dojo
- Low Kick Camp Martial Arts
- S.M. Smith Martial Arts
- XSMADOJO
- Capoeira NYC Inc
- Integrity Martial Arts
- Muay Tai
- SJ Wellness
- Martial Posture
- Roda Movements
- Uneed Martial Arts



FOLLOW US ON

**Instagram**

**@deaedfoundation**





**Youth Spotlight**  
ALATHIA

“I was very excited to be able to go to Master Scott Smith’s Martial Arts program at my school. I did two programs and then joined the dojang. I love taekwondo and go four days weekly. My instructors are awesome and teach me so much. Going down the wrong path leads to bad things. If you go down the right path, good things will happen. I am working hard to get my Black Belt and higher. I really enjoy helping and teaching others.”

**Alathia (Ali)**  
*DEAEF Youth Martial Arts Student*



“It was truly a pleasure working with the students, teachers, helpers, and organizers—everyone was incredibly supportive and helped ensure the class ran smoothly. The kids were always engaged and brought great energy to every session.”

**Roberto Tapia**

**Instructor Spotlight**  
ROBERTO TAPIA

“The Capoeira activity that the DEAEF provided for the youth at St. Vincent’s Villa has been amazing. Instructor Roberto is very enthusiastic about Capoeira which helps get the children excited to learn. He is kind, patient, and a passionate instructor which is what is needed for our program. For children that have not had a ton of exposure to community recreational sports this was a great opportunity for them to learn

the skills and how practice helps them build on the skills they were taught each week. It has been a pleasure to watch the children’s confidence grow and for them to develop an interest in the sport. Thank you to all for providing us with such an enriching experience.”

**Trisha Ey**  
*CTRS, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator*



## A Generous Partnership

The DEAEF YMAP partnered with Mau Mau Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy in Medford, MA and expanded its youth outreach through a partnership with Mau Mau Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy. Owned and led by world-renowned Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu champion Robson Rodrigues, known as “Mau Mau,” the academy brought a powerful blend of skill and mentorship to the DEAEF YMAP, fostering a healthy, positive environment for local youth to learn self-discipline, resilience and teamwork.

A special thanks to Rockland Recovery Treatment Center! All three DEAEF Martial Arts programs were overseen

by Bobby McCarron, an instructor and Jiu Jitsu Black Belt with the Dojo, who emphasized, “We are empowering kids through the sport of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. We are trying to keep kids in sports and out of courts!” Generously sponsored by Rockland Recovery Treatment Center which has been a steadfast supporter of the DEAEF’s mission, Rockland’s sponsorship has been vital to expanding these programs that continue to benefit and uplift the community.

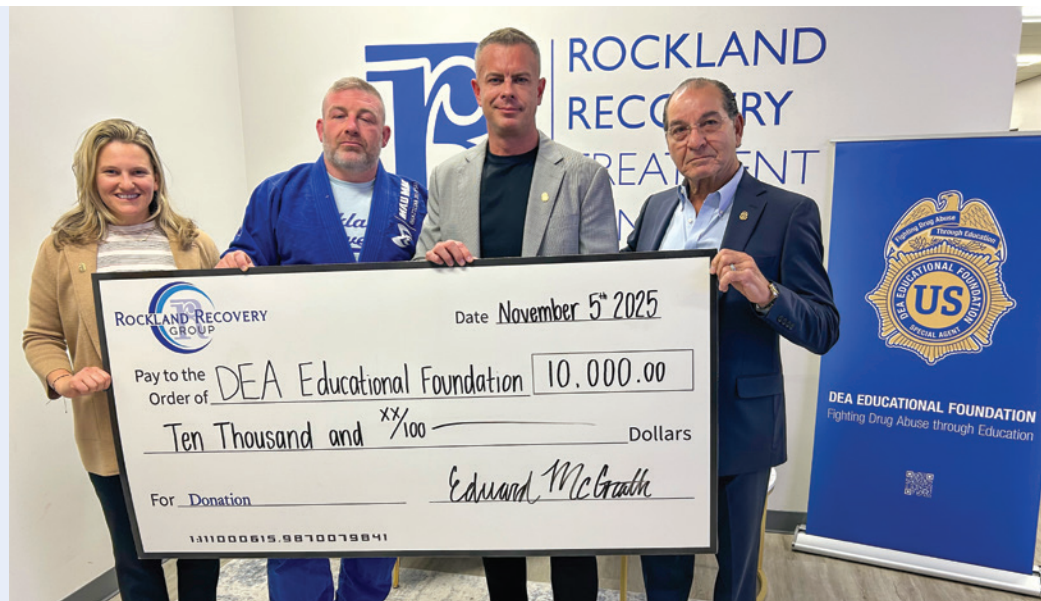


“Jiu-Jitsu has taught me how to be brave, even when something is hard. I learned that falling down is okay because I know how to get back up.”

**Evalen**  
Stoneham Central Middle School  
11 years old

## THANK YOU

We are beyond grateful to Rockland Recovery Group for their generous support! Our partnership is bringing Jiu-Jitsu to students at Stoneham Middle School. Together we’re making a positive impact on young lives! Thank you Eddie and Kayla! Also a big thank you to martial arts instructor Bobby McCarron!





## Capoeira in the Park—New York City, NY

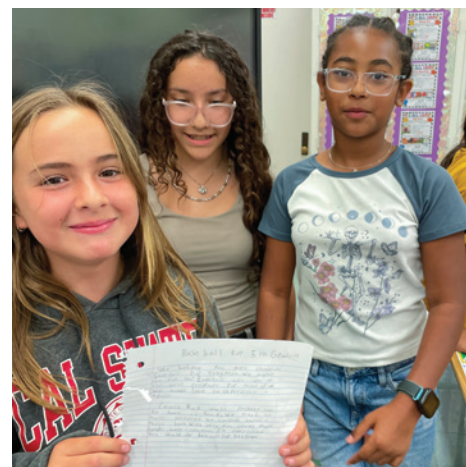
**M**anaged by Regional Director Christina Pastras, Capoeira NYC in the Park offered an open invitation to movement and mindfulness in Flushing Meadows, the iconic home of the U.S. Open. Held weekly throughout June, July, and August, this dynamic outdoor program welcomed up to 60 participants at a time, including children, teens, adults, and entire families. Under the guidance of Professora Trindade and fellow instructors, participants experienced the rich cultural traditions of Capoeira: an Afro-Brazilian martial art blending music, dance, and acrobatics. Participants received t-shirts and red ribbons as meaningful reminders of the DEA's Red Ribbon Pledge. The community feel, accessible format, and deep cultural roots made this program a joyful and inclusive summer staple. As participant Cherie Leoa shared, "Aside from the movement, I love the music, culture and history lessons that are always a part of Trindade's instruction."

**READ**  
FULL STORY



## Capoeira in Washington, D.C.





## DEAEF & DEA Museum Partnership

The DEAEF's partnership with the DEA Museum began in 2000, with the establishment of a Museum Advisory Board. In 2001, the advisory board merged with the Association of Former Federal Narcotics Agents (AFFNA) Foundation to form AFFNA DEA Museum Foundation as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by former agents, including Bill Alden, to support the DEA Museum, conduct educational programs, and raise awareness about illegal drug use. The Foundation added board members, refined their mission, and assumed responsibility for the DEA Museum Gift Shop. In October 2001, after September 11, the AFFNA-Museum Foundation collaborated with the physical expansion of the DEA Museum, reaffirming its commitment to public education during a pivotal moment in our nation's history. In 2008, the AFFNA-Museum Foundation changed its name to the DEA Educational Foundation (DEAEF).

The Foundation then partnered with the DEA Museum to develop a national narco-terrorism symposium and launched the first nationally acclaimed traveling exhibit *Target America: Opening Eyes to the Damage Drugs Cause*. The exhibit was updated and renamed in 2013 as *Drugs: Costs & Consequences*, combining new interactive displays, scientific research, and law enforcement perspectives to educate students and communities about the social, economic, and health impacts of drug use. For over two decades, the exhibit travelled to 22 cities and reached over 200 million visitors nationwide before concluding its service



in 2024, to make way for the next-generation of mobile exhibits.

The DEAEF/DEA Museum partnership continues today, through youth-focused initiatives such as the recent exhibit: *Drugs and You: Use Your Head*, a traveling teen exhibit promoting drug awareness. The DEAEF displays the exhibit at youth and community events and continues to advance prevention education nationwide and is designed for public libraries, schools, and community venues. For 25 years, the DEAEF has promoted the DEA Museum Lecture Series, which highlights the history of drug law enforcement, emerging drug trafficking trends, and substance abuse prevention efforts. These programs are free, virtual, and open to the public.

In October of each year, the DEAEF's youth programs and community events celebrate "Red Ribbon Week." The movement began in 1985 following the tragic death of Enrique 'Kiki' Camarena, a DEA Special Agent who was kidnapped and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico. The Red Ribbon pledge is recited by participants in our youth programs throughout the year and

is honored through the Foundation's special events at schools and in communities nationwide.

Internationally, in 2011, the DEAEF and the DEA Museum supported prevention education abroad, presenting the mobile public awareness and drug prevention exhibit in three provinces of Afghanistan for four years in partnership with the U.S. Department of State. In 2013, the DEAEF and the DEA Museum again partnered internationally to help establish the CTBC Anti-Drug Educational Foundation in Taipei, Taiwan. The collaboration focused on sharing exhibit content and educational materials from U.S. anti-drug initiatives, while exchanging practices for public education on drug prevention.

In November 2025, the DEA Museum was realigned under the DEA's Office of Congressional & Public Affairs where it was founded in 1997, reinforcing its role in public outreach and prevention education. The DEAEF remains committed to continuing our partnership with the DEA Museum in strengthening prevention education nationwide.



## The DEAEF Continues Key Partnership with DEA Operation Engage

In 2021, the DEA Educational Foundation was selected as a provider of youth engagement programs for Operation Engage and we are happy to have the opportunity to reach thousands of additional children and dozens of new communities through this impactful endeavor. In 2025, the DEAEF continued its partnership with DEA through its remaining Operation Engage Year IV and new Year V endeavors.

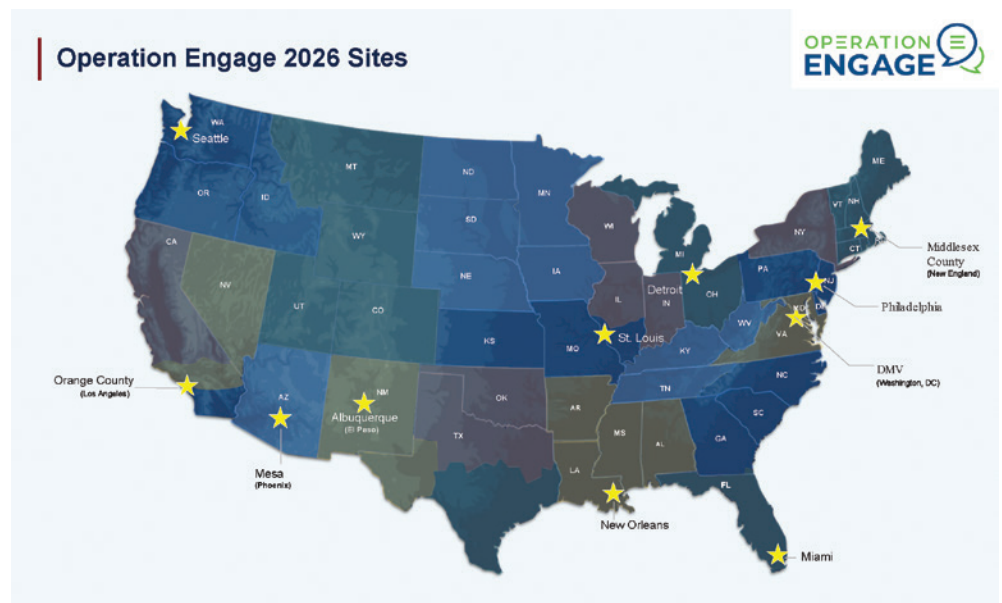
The DEA launched this comprehensive law enforcement and prevention initiative aimed at reducing drug use, abuse and overdose deaths. Operation Engage replaced DEA's 360 Strategy, which allowed the DEA Field Divisions to focus on the top drug threats in their respective geographic areas, and target the drug that presents the greatest harm to public safety in their jurisdictions. In 2025,

the DEA Educational Foundation was honored to partner with DEA in this goal in all 11 identified Operation Engage regions.

Operation Engage works together with law enforcement, prevention and treatment specialists and education specialists. The DEAEF will continue to work closely with DEA's Community Outreach Coordinators as we continue this important reach in 2026.

### 2024-2025 OPERATION ENGAGE DIVISIONS AND IDENTIFIED 2026 DIVISIONS:

- **El Paso Division:** Albuquerque, NM
- **Miami Division:** Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- **Washington Division:** DMV
- **Phoenix Division:** Glendale, AZ
- **Detroit Division:** Toledo, OH
- **St. Louis Division:** St. Louis, MO
- **New England Division:** Lowell, MA
- **New Orleans Division:** New Orleans, LA
- **Philadelphia Division:** Philadelphia, PA
- **Los Angeles Division:** Southern California
- **Seattle Division:** Seattle, WA





## More than Just a Meal

### HOW DEAEF'S CULINARY PROGRAM IS EMPOWERING RICHMOND YOUTH

**A** new culinary program in Richmond, Virginia brought students, chefs, and community partners together in a meaningful way. Launched by the DEA Washington's Operation Engage and DEA Educational Foundation (DEAEF), the eight-week series invited youth to step into a hands-on kitchen space where they can learn, create, and connect.

The program was led by Chef's K.I.S.S., which stands for Kitchen Innovations and Other Sustainable Skills. Students gathered once a week at Liberation Church, where a standard multipurpose room has been transformed into a bustling teaching kitchen. Each participant worked at a personal cooking station outfitted with burners and camper-style stoves, giving them the chance to practice real culinary techniques in a supportive and safe environment.

While cooking is a major highlight, the heart of the program runs even deeper. This Operation Engage Culinary Program was developed to not only spark joy for cooking,

but it also led social emotional learning sessions that helped students navigate challenges such as bullying, peer pressure, and drug awareness. These conversations were woven naturally into the cooking process, giving students a space to reflect, build confidence, and practice teamwork.



“The Culinary Program provides an engaging way to introduce and develop cooking skills among the youth, giving them the opportunity to see and enjoy the tangible results of their efforts. Because the program is hands-on, it naturally captures youth interest and engagement, creating an ideal environment to simultaneously reinforce drug prevention education while cultivating essential life skills.”

#### **Amy Danos**

*DEAEF Director of Special Events and Grant Management*

**READ**  
FULL STORY





## Building Healthy Habits that Last

### SEATTLE AREA HEALTH AND WELLNESS DAYS CONTINUE TO GROW

**T**he DEA Educational Foundation returned to the Seattle area this October with two impactful Health and Wellness Days at local elementary schools, continuing a partnership that is building healthier lifestyles and long-term sustainability for youth in the region.

Partnering with DEA Seattle Operation Engage, these events took place on October 23 and 24 in partnership with Talbot Hill Elementary School in Renton and Seahurst Elementary School in Burien, Washington. The Foundation's team, along with community partners, reached more than 130 fourth graders across both schools with creative, hands-on sessions designed to inspire healthy choices and active living.

Each day, students rotated through three engaging sessions lasting about 45 to 50 minutes each. Rick Zeitlin, DEAEF National Youth Baseball Director, led a baseball activity that used wiffle balls, bats, and bases to introduce students to teamwork, movement, and confidence through fun drills. Christine Stratton, a returning community artist and parent of a Seahurst student, guided an art session featuring watercolor painting. Students left their artwork to dry, and Christine later added protective coatings so they could take their pieces home to share with their families.

“I enjoyed this program, and so did the kids. Working within the time frame given, I think that for the art piece, we were able to help raise awareness for how art can be both rewarding and therapeutic.”

**Christine Stratton**  
*Art Instructor*

**READ**  
FULL STORY 



## Hooked on Positivity

**A**s part of Operation Engage, Year IV, the DEA Educational Foundation partnered with the DEA Detroit Field Division to host two inspiring youth fishing programs in southwest Michigan, designed to give students positive, hands-on experiences in nature while reinforcing the importance of a drug-free lifestyle.

On May 7, 2025, twenty-one eighth grade students from Milwood Magnet School in Kalamazoo traveled to the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in Mattawan for an immersive learning adventure. With the support of their teacher, James Warner, and guidance from Paul Frazier of the Fishin' Weather Project, students learned the art of casting fishing lines, fed and observed fish in the giant fish pond, and explored a variety of native species, their life cycles, and habitats. They also gained insight into how the hatchery helps protect and conserve Michigan's lakes, rivers, and streams.

DEAEF Special Projects Coordinator Colleen Whelan joined the group to speak about the Foundation's mission to support healthy, drug-free lifestyles. DEA Detroit Field Division Group Supervisor Michael Tighe and Special Agent Brian McNeal also spoke to the students, offering powerful messages about the dangers of substance abuse while mentoring the students throughout the day.

**READ**  
FULL STORY



“The pleasure is all mine to do this field trip and share this wonderful opportunity with our students. I am so grateful to be in a position to be able to do this program. I am thankful to meet amazing people like yourself and the field agents who I would not have crossed paths with in life—it all is truly a blessing.”

**James Warner**  
Teacher

# Summer Teen Academies

Last summer, hundreds of young people across Maryland and Virginia had their lives touched by the power of connection, encouragement, and possibility. Through Teen Academy programs, the DEA Educational Foundation (DEAEF), in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Washington Division's Operation Engage initiative, have created spaces where students not only learn about the dangers of drugs but also discover their own potential, get guidance from mentors and leave with a sense of hope.

Each academy offers a unique program, generally featuring a variety of lessons and workshops, including:



- Healthy Lifestyle and Drug Prevention
- Presentation Skills Building
- Conflict Resolution, Stress Coping, and Wellness
- Fun & Dynamic Team Building Activities—Basketball, Martial Arts, and Low Impact Movement
- Career Exploration Day
- Drug-Free Life!—Red Ribbon Pledge

**READ**   
**FULL STORY** 

# Operation Engage Deerfield Beach Community Bike Club

In January 2025, the DEAEF was thrilled once again to partner with the DEA Miami Field Division's Operation Engage in supporting a second dynamic youth bicycle program led by Deerfield Beach Community Cares and assisted by the Broward County Sheriff's Office. The program taught biking skills, knowledge

in the mechanics of operating bikes and safety procedures. DEA, along with officers from the Broward County Sheriff's Office spoke to the students about substance use combined with health education. At the end of the program each student received a new bicycle and a helmet.





## INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Board Member Thomas Harrigan Visits Taiwan

### DEAEF'S 10 YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CTBC ANTI-DRUG FOUNDATION (CTBC-ADF)

In October 2025, DEAEF Board Member Tom Harrigan was the keynote speaker for Taiwan's Therapeutic Justice Forum at the National Taiwan University Convention Center in Taipei. Attended by over 300 professionals representing the

CTBC Anti-Drug Foundation (CTBC-ADF), the Taiwan Association of Drug Treatment Policy, the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office, the Taiwan Ministry of Justice, the Taiwan Ministry of Health and Welfare, and the U.S. National

Association of Drug Court Professionals (now known as All Rise), the 2025 event marked the 10th anniversary of the DEAEF and CTBC-ADF partnership. The forum remains the leading platform in Taiwan for bridging common sense judicial practice and substance abuse treatment programs. The DEAEF is thankful to the CTBC Anti-Drug Educational Foundation for making another generous donation in November 2025 to support nine new DEAEF Youth Baseball Programs!



## 39th Annual International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC)

The DEAEF was invited to participate in the 39th annual International Drug Enforcement Conference, held in Nashville. The Foundation was proud to host an exhibitor table promoting the important work of our partnership with DEA, prevention education and youth programs. In addition, the DEAEF was a proud sponsor of the "Spirit of the Countries: Uniting to Save Lives, a Tribute to the Global Effort to Address Drugs and Drug Trafficking,"

produced by Channel Greatness. This year, representatives from more than 120 countries gathered over several days to address the drug threats we face as a global community. Delegates of this international gathering of drug law enforcement leaders, along with families affected by substance use, community organizations, and others affected by illicit drug activity gathered to share information, tactics, inspiration and music that is uniquely Nashville with a global flair.



## DEAEF Community Education

**T**he DEA Educational Foundation community partnerships are a key factor to the impactful work of our organization. The Foundation partners with dozens of organizations across the country and globe to make a substantial reach in educational efforts, to bring professionals together so that each can bring to the table the best expertise in different avenues of youth and community health and to be a united force in our fundamental mission of prevention. Our 2025 Annual Report partner highlights include just a few of our key partners in the field.



## CADCA Forum 2025

**C**ommunity Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) 35th Annual National Leadership Forum was held February 3-6, 2025, at the Gaylord Hotel, National Harbor, MD with over 4,000 attendees from across the globe.

The theme "Next Level Coalitions: Positive Community Outcomes" featured numerous workshops with prevention professionals from across the country, plenary sessions, networking, Capitol Hill Day, SAMHSA's 21st Annual Prevention Day, and the exciting Exhibit Hall! DEAEF Executive Office Consultant Lois Ludwikowski attended the conference on behalf of the Foundation. DEAEF board member and CADCA Public Policy Consultant, Sue Thau presented during the four-day conference with sessions including "Closing the Hemp Loophole – Everything You Need to Know about Semi-Synthetic Cannabinoids," and "The ABCs of Effective Advocacy."

Another exciting session during the week was "Building Capacity and Sustainability" through DEA's Operation Engage: Lowrider Bike Panel. Community partners and students built lowrider bicycles while youth were educated about the dangers of substance abuse, crime, and violence. On the last day, Acting DEA Administrator Derek Maltz was interviewed by President and CEO of CADCA Gen. Barrye L. Price during a DEA power session. The conference then culminated with a forum luncheon and National Leadership Awards ceremony.

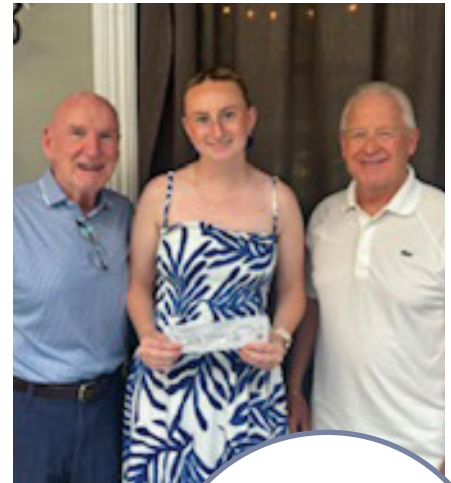


## 2025 Drug Enforcement Association of Federal Narcotics Agents (DEAFNA) Scholarship

**C**ongratulations to all the winners of the 2025 DEAFNA Regional Scholarships. The DEAEF proudly recognized and endowed a scholarship to Lauren Furey in memory of DEAEF Board Member Christopher E. Egan Jr., honoring his lasting legacy and service.

In June, retired DEA Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division, John Gilbride and current Vice President of DEAFNA Northeast presented the DEAFNA Scholarship Award check to Lauren Furey. Lauren is the granddaughter of retired DEA Special Agent Tim Sullivan and will be attending Georgia Institute of Technology, where she plans to major in Biomedical Engineering.

This scholarship reflects DEAEF's continued commitment to supporting the educational aspirations of DEA family members while honoring the memory and contributions of our dear colleague Christopher E. Egan Jr.



### Scholarship Spotlight

LAUREN FUREY

## Drug Enforcement Association of Federal Narcotic Agents (DEAFNA) 2025 Annual Conference

**T**he DEAEF was honored to participate in the DEAFNA 2025 Annual Conference held in Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort from October 23–26, 2025, where there were approximately 150 members in attendance comprised of retired and current federal law enforcement personnel. The mission of DEAFNA is to promote and preserve goodwill and friendship among former federal narcotics agents and other Drug Enforcement Administration personnel, to provide mutual assistance to its members, and to support the DEA in its ongoing mission of drug law enforcement. During the conference, DEAEF Executive Office Consultant Lois Ludwikowski addressed the conferees sharing information and updates on



the Foundation's current youth drug education programs and initiatives taking place across the country. The Foundation sincerely appreciates our long-standing coordination and valued partnership with DEAFNA.



(Top Left) DEAEF Executive Office Consultant Lois Ludwikowski addresses the Conference General Assembly. (Top Right) Marshall Fisher, President of DEAFNA, Lois Ludkovski, DEAEF Executive Office Consultant, and Scott Ando, DEAFNA Secretary/Conference Coordinator.



## Big Brothers Big Sisters Partnership

Since 2021, the DEAEF has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) to provide online Opioid Awareness Training for their staff, parents/caregivers, mentors, and youth. The DEA Educational Foundation oversees the training process by proposing relevant topics, vetting and securing expert speakers, developing educational content and materials, coordinating logistics, and ensuring the effective and timely delivery of each session. Annually,

the DEAEF hosts approximately 10–12 training sessions, many of which are youth programs in out-of-school hours. In 2025, the Foundation incorporated a self care theme and worked with new partners and speakers through Heroes Journey, such as Matt Berthot, who presented The Power of Self Care; Eron Zehavi and Trevor Pullen, who presented The Gift of Challenge: Cultivating Resilience Through the Most Difficult Circumstances; and Tasha Danvers,

who presented An Olympians Guide to Resilience; among others.

By the conclusion of the 2025–2026 program year, the Foundation will have conducted a total of 47 training sessions which includes nine parent/caregiver sessions, 10 mentor sessions, 13 youth sessions, and 15 staff sessions. We are humbled by the opportunity to work with BBBS and look forward to many more opportunities to collaborate.



stigma around addiction, expanding prevention and early intervention, increasing the uptake of evidence-based practice, and advancing patient-led research.

The DEA Educational Foundation is thrilled to continue its collaboration

our provider network for educational webinars we provide to organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters. At the national level, the DEAEF has joined the APF Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN), an initiative network which is designed to advance scientific knowledge on effective policies, practices, and interventions to improve care for individuals that are justice-involved with opioid use disorder. The DEAEF President and CEO also joins bi-annual APF's CAC (Community Advisory Council) meetings.

It is an honor to work with APF and to have our two organizations support and supplement each other in the mission to prevent substance misuse and addiction and positively educate and empower youth and communities.

## Addiction Policy Forum Partnership

The Addiction Policy Forum (APF) is a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating addiction as a major health problem. With services in every state, the APF focuses on the following strategic priorities: helping patients and families in crisis, ending the

with APF on multiple fronts. Across all initiatives, the DEAEF has added APF materials to our library of educational resources shared with communities through national partners, local partners and youth programs. This includes APF's Protect Your Brain video campaign and the Fentanyl Facts and Overdose Risks training for the DEAEF's youth and community outreach team. The DEAEF has continued to invite APF and their knowledgeable speakers to be part of

## In Memoriam

**T**he DEAEF experienced tremendous loss in 2025 due to the deaths of four beloved board members. In our 2024 Annual Report, we highlighted Peter Bensinger and Chris Egan who passed in early 2025 prior to our annual report publication. This year we highlight our beloved Founder, Bill Alden, and Ex-officio board member John Bartels, Jr.



**Christopher E. Egan Jr.**

NOVEMBER 14, 1940–  
JANUARY 20, 2025



**Peter B. Bensinger**

MARCH 24, 1936–  
FEBRUARY 11, 2025

## John R. Bartels, Jr.

NOVEMBER 27, 1934–MARCH 27, 2025

**W**e are saddened by the death of DEAEF ex-officio board member **John R. Bartels, Jr. in 2025.** Mr.

Bartels graduated from Harvard University in 1956, where he earned a degree in history, *magna cum laude*. In 1957 he attended the University of Munich as a Fulbright Scholar and Konrad Adenauer Scholar, before returning to the U.S. to earn an LL.B. at Harvard Law School in 1960. After several years in private practice, John spent the next decade-plus in public service. He served from 1964 to 1968 as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York under Robert Morgenthau. In 1968 he became the first Chief of the New Jersey Strike Force. In 1972 he was named Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal



Division. And from 1973 to 1975, John served as the first Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. After leaving government, John co-founded the law firm of Bartels & Feureisen LLP in Bedford Hills, New York, where he practiced for many years and remained of counsel until his death. John served as an ex-officio board since DEAEF's inception. He was a strong supporter of the DEAEF and we were thrilled to have DEA's first Administrator on our board. He will be missed!

## William F. Alden

JULY 11, 1943–  
APRIL 30, 2025

**T**he DEAEF was incredibly saddened in 2025 by the passing of our beloved DEAEF Educational Foundation Founder, **William F. Alden (Bill)**. Bill was a loyal

friend, a dynamic mentor and impressive leader. His vision, motivation and contributions deeply shaped the DEAEF. His unwavering dedication to educating our youth and communities on the importance of drug prevention inspires the values we hold today. Bill's passing leaves a deep void in our lives, but we are grateful for learning from his experience, knowledge and passion for making a difference and making an impact on our world.



William F. Alden, 81, passed away on April 30, 2025. He suffered from a rare



neurological disease called PSP. Born on July 11, 1943 in Glens Falls, N.Y., he was the son of the late William B. Alden and Beatrice Alden LaPoint. William married Patricia M. Smatko from Fort Edward, N.Y. in September 1965. William was retired Chief of DEA's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, Deputy Director of DARE America, and former

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the DEA Educational Foundation. He spent over 40 years in the field of drug enforcement and drug abuse prevention. He was an avid golfer and won many trophies and plaques. He loved listening to country music and baking apple pies. He was an IU Alumni and followed his Hoosiers faithfully.

“Since Bill’s passing I have felt a great sense of loss. However, each day I feel incredibly grateful to have had him in my life as my mentor and friend for nearly three decades through our joint interest in drug prevention efforts. Much of how I lead is due to what I learned from Bill and most importantly I will walk in Bill’s footsteps in always remembering the reason why we do the work we do—to save lives and to lead others to happy and fulfilling lives. As I move forward in my role as President and CEO of the DEA Educational Foundation, I vow to always do my best to make Bill proud and to work hard to pave the way for a brighter future.”

**Jill L. Roberts**  
*President & CEO*  
*DEA Educational Foundation*

## SPONSOR ADVERTISEMENT

# Deactivation—Proven.

**M**any drug disposal systems claim it. Only Deterra® delivers it. Our proprietary, carbon-rich formula is scientifically proven to permanently deactivate drugs, stripping them of their power to be misused or harm the environment. Once placed inside a Deterra pouch, medications become non-retrievable—period.

Other disposal systems with less carbon are just that: disposal systems. And when it comes to your hospital, your community, or your family, half a solution isn't enough.



## THE POWER TO MAKE DRUGS POWERLESS

Each year, millions of Americans misuse prescription drugs—most often taken from a friend, family member, or medicine cabinet. Homes, hospitals, and care centers are packed full with leftover medications that frequently go unsecured and are disposed of improperly, putting communities at risk of poisoning, addiction, overdose, and environmental harm. The issue isn't just about access; it's a lack of education and easy solutions.

That's why Deterra offers a complete product line—including pouches, liquid containers, and bulk options.





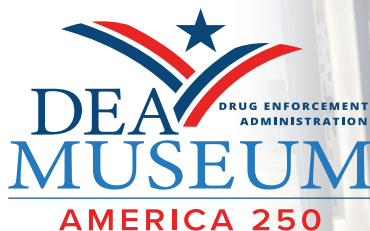
# Honoring 25 Years of Impact: Reflecting on Our Legacy, Celebrating Our Future

In 2026, the DEA Educational Foundation (DEAEF) proudly marks a milestone: 25 years of impact. For a quarter century, the DEAEF has stood at the intersection of education, prevention, and hope, guided by one enduring belief. Knowledge saves lives, and young people, when supported and empowered, can build brighter, healthier futures.

It is time to honor where we began, celebrate how far we have come, and recommit to the work ahead. Throughout 2026, the DEAEF will highlight the partnerships, programs, and people who have shaped its journey, while continuing to serve communities across the country with the same passion and purpose that inspired its founding.

This anniversary year is not a single moment, but a year-long reflection. It is a

**READ**  
FULL STORY



LPGA Year V

DEAEF + DEA Museum Partnership

Drug Abuse and Misuse Seminars BBBS, Corporate, National League of Young Men

New Youth Programs Minneapolis

National Youth Coach/ Instructor Summit

High School Internships

OPERATION ENGAGE



Year VI Operation Engage

### Conference/Event Participation

CADCA, SAM, Foundation for Drug Policy, Drug Free America Summit, National Summit on Opioid Awareness, RX and Illicit Drug Summit, Addiction Policy Forum-CAC, International Drug Enforcement Conference, CTBC Anti-Drug Educational Foundation conference, and more



## Giving to the Foundation

**The success of the DEA Educational Foundation depends upon the continued generous support of our donors and the ongoing partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration.**

Maximizing partnerships and being good stewards of our donors' generosity is critical. The DEAEF youth programs strive to change students' lives by providing healthy drug free alternative activities after school such as dance, baseball, martial arts, and more. Keeping kids off the street, while teaching them to be accountable, responsible and drug free all while having fun helps explain why there are dozens of schools on our waiting list. Donations are critical to help us reach

thousands of children who are in need of these positive programs.

The Foundation multiplies the impact of their donors' gifts by forming relationships with DEA and other federal, state and local organizations. For example, DEAEF youth programs are supported by local DEA offices throughout the United States with mentoring and community outreach activities. And, since the beginning of the Foundation, its donors have helped support the DEA traveling exhibit that has raised awareness in 22 cities across the United States about the dangers of drug abuse and misuse for more than 22 million visitors. This partnership and

others strengthen the Foundation's programs and substantially increase the value of our donors' gifts.

There are many ways of making a gift to the DEA Educational Foundation. The most common include: gifts of cash, gifts of securities and matching gifts. Matching gifts are a great way to increase the benefit of your contribution without any additional cost. Ask your company's personnel department if your company has a Matching Gift Program. Many corporations will match the contribution of their employees, officers, directors, and in some instances, spouses, retired employees, officers or directors.



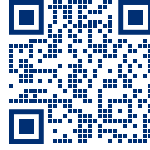
We are pleased to have a diverse donor base and thank all of the individuals, corporations, and foundations for their continued support. On the following pages, you will find a list of donors for 2025.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have questions on ways to give to the Foundation, contact us:

 [email: info@deaef.org](mailto:info@deaef.org)

## ONLINE GIFTS



Scan the QR code with your smartphone

Go online via your browser

<https://give.deaef.org>

## DEAEF GIFT SHOP

Shop our merch store:

<https://shop.deaef.org>

## GLOBALGIVING

The DEA Educational Foundation Youth Dance Program is honored to be part of GlobalGiving, a fundraising platform that connects nonprofits, donors and companies in nearly every country in the world. Global Giving helps nonprofits access the funding, tools, training, and support they need to serve their communities. Since 2002, GlobalGiving has raised \$1.09 billion from over 2 million donors, supporting more than 43,000 projects that create lasting community impact. Since joining this incredible network, the DEAEF Youth Dance Program has raised \$35,578, providing young people with access to free dance programming as a positive and healthy alternative to drug use and misuse. To learn more or support our mission, visit our GlobalGiving page today!



## GlobalGiving

<https://goto.gg/10083>



# Recognition & Thanks

## ADMINISTRATOR'S CABINET

- Pat Alden
- Shaun and Andy Block
- Robert Brisolari
- C&S Wholesale Grocers
- CTBC Anti-Drug Educational Foundation
- CTBC Bank USA
- Patti and Steve Durst
- Barbara Erdahl
- James Essey
- Andy Field/FieldVision Productions
- The Geraty Family
- Vince Gilligan and Holly Rice
- Lauren and Sid Gorter
- Barbara Haggerty
- Skip Herman
- Carl Jenkins
- Julie and Jerry Kaphing
- James E. Kibble and Deborah A. Kibble
- John and Natalia Koudsi
- LexisNexis
- Jean Mackenzie (in memory of Harold Mackenzie)
- Gregory and EJ Milken
- Michael and Lori Milken
- Lee Nicks
- Robert and Margaret Nieves
- Anna and Alan Ostroff
- Terry and Marie Parham
- Lewis Rice
- Jill L. Roberts
- Rockland Recovery Treatment Center/Edward McGrath
- Joseph Piscatella, Sr.
- Carol Safir
- Dan Staffieri
- Jason Sundby/Verde Environmental Technologies, Inc
- Haywood Talcove
- Sue Thau
- Walter and Shirley Wang/JM Eagle
- Wings Up Family Foundation

## INNER CIRCLE

- Norbert Adamski
- Lorraine Ambrose (in memory of Myles Ambrose)
- Frank Balazs
- Joseph Barrett
- Bill Beach
- Judith Bertini
- Charles Blau
- Richard Bly
- Robert Brisolari
- Ron Brogan
- Paul Brown
- Scott Canales
- W. Barry Carew
- Gerard F. Carey
- Thomas Cash (in memory)
- Michael Chapman
- Frank Chellino
- George Y. Clemente
- Karl Colder
- James B. Conklin
- Glennon Cooper
- Robin E. Cushing
- Amy Danos
- Paul Doyle
- Francis Elliott
- Sean Fearn
- John Fencer
- John Fernandes
- Rhonda Fisher
- Lawrence M. Gallina
- William Gellerman
- Jerome H. Gershman
- Edward M. Guillen
- William Healey
- Frank Hildebrandt
- Raymond Justinic
- Jonathan Kapaldo

- Jerry Kaphing
- Joseph & Nancy Keefe
- Leslie Kenney
- Douglas Kuehl
- Richard LaMagna
- Ronald Lard
- Jan Larsen
- Steven Lariviere
- Gerald Laveroni
- Jack Lawn
- Gary Liming
- Lois Ludwikowski
- Charles Lutz
- Martin Maguire
- Andrew Malanga
- Derek Maltz
- John Marcello
- Lawrence McElynn
- John McCurnin
- J. Taylor Monfort
- James Morgan
- Dennis A. Morton
- Francis Mullen
- John Nattinger
- George Papantoniou
- John Peoples
- Ronald Provencher
- Joseph Quarequio (in memory)
- Tom Raffanello
- John Raftery
- Frank D. Rodriguez
- Andrew Sherbine
- Robert Stutman
- Mary Turner
- Peter Vinton
- Ruth Warren
- Louis Weiss
- Colleen Whelan
- D. Lynn Wood
- Janice Wrzesinski
- Micheal Yanniello

Gifts made after December 31, 2025 will be listed in a future annual report. If you contributed a gift between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025, and your name was inadvertently omitted or misspelled, we sincerely apologize and request that you please contact us at [julie.kaphing@deaef.org](mailto:julie.kaphing@deaef.org), so that we can include you in future listings.

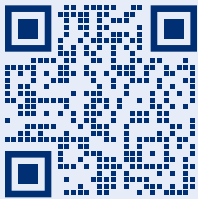


## A Final Note

**A**s you can see, there are a significant number of meaningful educational outreach programs led by the DEA Educational Foundation. We remain steadfast in our commitment to securing sufficient resources to ensure that we can continue to bring prevention programs, positive mentorship and hope to families and youth. All of our greatest achievements are made possible by the unwavering support of our loyal benefactors and strong partnership with DEA. I invite you to continue to play an important role in our legacy of fighting drug abuse and misuse through education by making a gift today. Together, with our collective mission, skills and talents, we create possibilities, positive impact and change the world. As we enter our 25th year, we will continue to celebrate our impact and our role in saving the lives of youth and we will focus on our continued evolution, expanding our reach, and renewed resolve. We will continue to be those who believe in our youth as they continue to grow. Thank you for being part of our journey.

Jill L. Roberts  
*President & CEO*  
*DEA Educational Foundation*

**Editor:** Julie Kaphing  
**Graphic Designer:** Jonathan Kapaldo  
© 2026 DEA Educational Foundation



Scan the QR code with  
your smartphone

<https://give.deaef.org>

Go online via your browser

2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 165  
Washington, DC 20006

PHONE

ONLINE

MAIL

**Thank You!**



2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 165  
Washington, DC 20006



**#DEAEdFoundation**

**[www.deaef.org](http://www.deaef.org)**