



# Dynamo Charities

PRESENTED BY HALLIBURTON  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

**2019 COMMUNITY REPORT**



**HOUSTON DYNAMO, HOUSTON DASH  
& BBVA STADIUM PRESIDENT  
JOHN WALKER**

Dynamo and Dash Family,

As we embark on the 2020 season in just a few short weeks and our focus shifts to the action between the lines, I want to take a moment to look back at last year and call your attention to some of the great things our club has accomplished throughout the Houston community. Dynamo Charities, the non-profit arm of the Dynamo and Dash, concentrates its efforts on youth soccer, youth enrichment programs and childhood cancer awareness.

Last year, more than 10,000 kids throughout the Greater Houston area participated in free soccer clinics hosted by our youth coaches, and we teamed up with the Houston Police Department's anti-gang unit to launch a truly impactful after-school program called Kick It that uses soccer to give at-risk kids a safe and productive alternative to gang activity. We also

partnered with world-renowned youth development expert Tom Byer to launch Diesel's Skill Builders presented by Soccer Starts at Home, using his revolutionary methodology to help Houston's youngest children fall in love with the ball and develop invaluable cognitive, physical and life skills. Like the kids that it serves, this program is just getting started, and we are excited to see the progress that it will make in 2020.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and last fall at our annual Kick Childhood Cancer Night, 11 children battling cancer led the team on to the field wearing one-of-a-kind superhero capes designed in partnership with a non-profit organization called Coming Up Rosies. Sebastian Robles, a 12-year-old boy from Houston, signed a two-day contract with the club and represented the Dynamo as our Honorary Captain that night, walking out hand-in-hand with our captain, DaMarcus Beasley.

Of course, our Dynamo and Dash players continue to play a major role in our community outreach, and last year they combined to make more than 350 appearances throughout the Houston area. Our Dynamo GOALS program, which promotes healthy eating and exercise, reached more than 20 schools in 2019, and our Science of Soccer program helped equip Houston ISD middle school teachers with the tools to use the beautiful game to get their students about STEM concepts. To celebrate International Women's Day last March, 30 female students from Houston ISD's Chavez High School visited BBVA Stadium for a behind-the-scenes tour and to hear from a panel of women from our club, including Dash forward Veronica Latsko.

None of this could be possible without our fans' and our corporate partners' ongoing support. Last year, we launched a new event that we plan to make an annual staple of the calendar – the Dynamo Charities Top Golf Classic. Our unique twist on the traditional charity golf tournament, the event gave fans, partners and players alike the opportunity to interact with one another in a relaxed environment, and we raised more than \$10,000 at the event. Last January, the annual Dynamo Charities Fire Sale gained more than \$25,000 and gave fans the chance to gear up with team-issued and game-worn apparel.

Our partners have been crucial in our outreach efforts. We are particularly grateful to the Halliburton Charitable Foundation, whose lead gift that helped fund many of our programs. The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, our jersey partner, helped us make BBVA Stadium the first 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free sporting venue in Houston. Our partnership with MD Anderson has also given our players and staff the opportunity to see first-hand the life-changing impact that cancer treatment and prevention efforts can have. Without the support of our friends at 76®, the Dynamo Special Olympics Unified Team may not have had the opportunity to travel to Dallas and Los Angeles to compete against their peers from around the league.

As we look ahead at the 2020 campaign, we're eager to see the continued growth of many of these community programs. More students will learn crucial science and math skills using the Science of Soccer; the Kick It after-school program, which started with one location last year, is expected to include multiple schools and parks this year; and we anticipate that Dynamo GOALS will continue to broaden its reach in 2020.

I'm looking forward to this year on the field, as I'm sure are you, and my hope is that you'll share in my excitement about what we're doing to hold it down for H-Town off the field as well.

Best,  
John Walker  
President  
Houston Dynamo, Houston Dash & BBVA Stadium

# CONTENT



**02** LETTER FROM  
THE PRESIDENT

**16** YOUTH ENRICHMENT,  
HEALTH & WELLNESS

**06** 2019 BY  
THE NUMBERS

**23** YOUTH  
SOCCER

**07** SIGNATURE EVENTS  
AND FUNDRAISERS

**28** HOUSTON DYNAMO UNIFIED  
TEAM PRESENTED BY 76®

**12** COMMUNITY  
EVENTS

**33** HOSPITAL VISITS

**35** KICK CHILDHOOD  
CANCER

**39** COMMUNITY  
SERVICE

**40** PLAYER  
INITIATIVES

**43** TICKET DONATIONS

**44** 2019 DONORS

# BY THE NUMBERS



**1,271** HRS

of community service provided by fans, players and staff



**10,000** YOUTH

impacted through free soccer clinics

**\$60,000**

donated to different charities through grants and in-kind donations



**FREE COACHING**

education provided to 25 coaches



**8 OVER 8,000**

Dynamo and Dash tickets donated to youth and military

## SIGNATURE EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

### DYNAMO & DASH OPEN PRACTICES

Each year prior to the kick-off of the Houston Dynamo and Houston Dash Seasons, the teams host a practice that is open to all fans. Both of these open practice sessions give fans the opportunity to see the new and returning players and get an up close first look at the team. Fans can enjoy pre-practice festivities, watch the team in action for the first time as well as receive autographs and photos from some of their favorite players.



#### DYNAMO OPEN PRACTICE

Kiki Struna takes a selfie with a fan



#### DASH OPEN PRACTICE

Kealia Ohai giving autographs



### DYNAMO & DASH FIRE SALE

Dynamo Charities provides Dynamo & Dash fans the opportunity to purchase new and player worn gear, including jerseys, warm-up tops, jackets and much more, at the annual Dynamo Charities Fire Sale. This year Dynamo Charities hosted two fire sales, both taking place before each teams' respective open practice events. Dynamo Charities raised more than \$25,000 for community programs.



Devon Kerr, Jazmin Jackmon and Ally Haran with attendees

### DYNAMO CHARITIES CLASSIC AT TOP GOLF

This year Dynamo Charities hosted the First Annual Dynamo Charities Classic at Top Golf. Over 150 attendees enjoyed a round of golf with Dynamo and Dash players and helped to raise funds for Dynamo Charities and the various community programs they support, including the Houston Dynamo Unified Team, Soccer Starts at Home and Science of Soccer.



AJ DeLaGarza with attendees



## EASTER EGG HUNT

In April, Dynamo Charities hosted the second annual Easter Egg Hunt at BBVA Stadium for over 150 young fans. Kids were able to search for eggs hidden around the stadium seating bowl, take photos with Easter Diesel and create different Easter themed arts and crafts.

## JERSEYS OFF OUR BACKS

Jersey off our Backs is an annual event held during Fan Appreciation Night each season. Fans are randomly selected throughout the stadium during the game and given the opportunity to go onto the field at the conclusion of the match to receive a game-worn jersey from one of the Houston Dynamo players.



## DYNAMO & DASH AUCTIONS

In 2019, Dynamo & Dash fans raised over \$16,000 by bidding on unique game worn gear and memorabilia supporting several initiatives such as Kick Childhood Cancer and Soccer For All.



## DYNAMO CHARITIES 50/50 RAFFLE

During every regular season Houston Dynamo home game, fans are able to participate in the 50/50 Raffle. At each home game, one lucky fan won 50% of the net proceeds for that night, with the other 50% going to Dynamo Charities. This year Dynamo Charities was able to raise \$30,000 to help support various community programs.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## MLS WORKS GREENER GOALS WEEK OF SERVICE DALECREST FIELD BEAUTIFICATION

Each season, MLS WORKS, MLS Clubs and league office staff volunteer their time to give back to local organizations leading up to Earth Day. This year the Houston Dynamo and ECHO USA partnered to help beautify the Dalecrest Soccer Field located in west Houston. Dynamo players Michael Nelson, Eric Bird, Chris Duvall and Dash Goalkeeper Devon Kerr joined front office staff to plant bushes, trim trees, remove old goals and install bleachers at Dalecrest field in the Spring Branch Community.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### SOUND THE ALARM

Each year the American Red Cross installs over 100,000 smoke detectors into homes across the country to help save lives from home fires. The Houston Dynamo partnered with the American Red Cross of South Texas for the second year to sponsor the Sound the Alarm Program which helps to ensure area homes have working smoke detectors and a proper fire safety plan, including planned exit routes. In June, front office staff, Dynamo Diesel and American Red Cross volunteers installed smoke detectors in homes in Houston's Third Ward and Channelview communities.





## MD ANDERSON BOOT WALK

Dynamo and Dash staff, fans and players joined in on the MD Anderson Boot Walk to help End Cancer. Discoveries at MD Anderson lead to new treatment standards everywhere, giving all those touched by cancer the best chance for survival. Team Forever Orange raised \$8,453 to fund groundbreaking research, improvements in cancer care delivery and development of better diagnostic tools and tests to improve early detection.



## PAPA JOHN'S 3 VS 100

Dynamo players Christian Ramirez, Boniek Garcia and Memo Rodriguez took on 100 young players from La Unidad Soccer and Dynamo Dash Youth at a special event presented by Papa Johns. Papa Johns provided uniforms for all participants and distributed pizza to children and parents at the end of the event.





## YOUTH ENRICHMENT, HEALTH & WELLNESS

### READ ACROSS AMERICA

Every year on March 2nd, students and teachers around the country celebrate the birthday of the iconic childhood author Dr. Seuss by participating in Read Across America Day. This year Dynamo players Kevin Garcia and Eric Bird visited Matzke Elementary and Promise Community School respectively to read some of their favorite Dr. Seuss books to kids. Players read to over 300 students and highlighted the importance of reading every day.



### DYNAMO & DASH GOALS

Dynamo & Dash GOALS is a school program designed to educate young students about the importance of staying healthy through the integration of academics and soccer. Through this program, students learn about the importance of eating healthy and staying fit. Students are asked to set goals for themselves in each of these areas and work with their classmates to complete their goals throughout the school year. This season the Dynamo and Dash worked with over 20 schools to provide free soccer clinics, healthy eating activities and lessons from players and team staff to encourage healthy lifestyles for students.

# YOUTH ENRICHMENT, HEALTH & WELLNESS

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8, female students from Chavez High School visited BBVA Stadium to celebrate International Women's Day. The student group consisted of the girls' soccer team and members of the Just Keep Livin Foundation which focuses on the health and well-being of youth.

The visit included a behind-the-scenes tour of BBVA Stadium followed by lunch and a career panel that consisted of women who currently work in the Dynamo, Dash and BBVA Stadium front office including Dash forward Veronica Latsko. Panelists shared their experience as students and professionals, provided advice on how to achieve goals and overcome challenges, and answered questions directly from the students. The event ended with a gratitude circle, a cornerstone of the Just Keep Livin Foundation where students, teachers and panelists alike expressed their excitement around the camaraderie within the group and the perspective the day together gave them.



# YOUTH ENRICHMENT, HEALTH & WELLNESS

## SCIENCE OF SOCCER

The Dynamo & Dash Science of Soccer program is an educational curriculum aimed at encouraging students to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts with a focus on using soccer as an educational tool.

Teachers from fifteen Houston ISD Schools participated in a Science of Sport Teacher Training at BBVA Stadium where they received a complete Science of Soccer Kit including all the classroom materials and sporting equipment needed to implement the program at their schools.

Fourth and fifth grade students from Briscoe Elementary received a special visit from Dynamo midfielder, Tommy McNamara to learn a lesson on friction. Tommy kicked a ball on grass and concrete and students measured the difference in distances and how each floor affected to far a ball rolled.

During the summer, youth from Spring Spirit benefitted from a weeklong Science of Soccer Camp. Students participated in structured lessons and informal games to reinforce the connection between soccer and STEM both in the classroom and on the soccer field. The camp ended with a special visit by Dynamo Midfielder Juan David Cabezas and invitation to a Dynamo game.



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES GIVEAWAY

Teachers spend approximately \$500 to purchase school supplies for their classrooms every school year. To give back, the Dynamo and Dash created a social media campaign to donate \$500 worth of school supplies to two teachers. Through this program the Dynamo and Dash helped clear the wish lists of Erica Kelley from Conley Elementary and Brina Burke from Francis Elementary.



## YOUTH ENRICHMENT, HEALTH & WELLNESS

### Classroom Champs presented by Kroger

Kroger and the Houston Dynamo recognized and rewarded five outstanding educators from Cypress-Fair Banks ISD, Houston ISD, Lamar-Consolidated ISD and Fort Bend ISD. Educators were nominated by their peers, students and parents and received Kroger gift cards, a grant to their school and the top educator participated in a shopping spree with Dynamo Goalkeeper Joe Willis.





## LUNCH AND LEARN

Throughout the season students from 10 schools participated in behind-the scene tours at BBVA Stadium and were provided advice through special career panels formed by Dynamo and Dash front office staff.



## YOUTH SOCCER

### EVERY SAVE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Every Save Makes a Difference is an equipment donation program presented by MLS Works, UniMás and Allstate. Every save made by Dynamo goalkeepers on games broadcasted on UniMás raises \$500 for local soccer teams to receive equipment needed for the season. This year, Dynamo goalkeepers raised \$8,500 which benefited 250 soccer players from Almeda Elementary, Scarborough Elementary, Wisdom High School, Cedar Stars Rush. Each soccer team received a soccer equipment donation to help them continue their programming. Donations included everything from uniforms to soccer goals.





## SURPRISE PRACTICE

Dynamo and Dash players surprised local soccer teams at their practices throughout the season. First team players worked with local youth club coaches to provide a once in a lifetime practice for these young players. Each team received a team photo with the players as well as autographs for each participant.



## YOUTH SOCCER FIRST PASS INITIATIVE

In 2017, former Houston Dynamo Forward Andrew Wenger kicked off the First Pass Initiative at The Forge for Families in Houston's Third Ward.

The First Pass Initiative is a program that teaches teamwork and accountability through soccer. Dynamo and Dash players and coaches teach students the fundamentals of soccer and share their professional experiences on and off the field. The program culminates with students attending a Dynamo game with a parent at BBVA Stadium.

This season, the program was held at Las Americas Newcomer School in Southwest Houston. Students at Las Americas are new to the country and are on the path to learning a new language and adapting to a new country. The Dynamo hosted three weeks of soccer clinics and provided coaches and equipment to the school. The program concluded with a visit from Dynamo Midfielders Boniek Garcia and Darwin Ceren and Forwards Alberth Elis and Memo Rodriguez who spoke about their experiences arriving to a new country and learning a new language.



## YOUTH SOCCER

### SOCCER STARTS AT HOME

Soccer Starts at Home is an innovative new program from the Houston Dynamo and Houston Dash, targeted at children ages 2-8 – and their parents. Dynamo and Dash youth coaches visited KIPP Connect, The Awty School and Neff Elementary five times over the course of the semester. At each session, the students learned basic soccer skills designed to help young children develop balance, coordination and agility in a fun way. This program differs from other youth soccer programs, as there is a request for parent involvement. After each session students were given “homework” – to practice the skills they learned with mom & dad using the Size 1 soccer ball given to them. Students are taught skills such as working on keeping the ball close rather than kicking it away and encouraging creativity and experimentation, but most of all, have fun! Research has shown that developing new skills – whether those are athletic, musical or artistic – at an early age jump-starts the cognitive development in young minds.



## SOCCER FOR ALL

The Houston Dynamo, MLS and MLS WORKS are dedicated to supporting the community we live and play our games, and to providing an environment in which our staff, players, partners and fans are treated with dignity and respect. Soccer For All signifies that everyone is welcome to MLS, regardless of race, color or religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, and emphasizes the team and Leagues commitment to drive positive social change and end discrimination. This year the Dynamo worked with 4 organizations to help spread the message of Soccer For All during our game on June 22nd.

- The Houston Fireballs are a power wheelchair soccer team that gives kids in wheelchairs the opportunity to compete at local and national level.
- The reVision Football Club is comprised of mostly refugee youth with a passion for soccer. The team operates under the umbrella of reVision Houston, a faith-based organization that works to break the cycle of isolation among the most profoundly disconnected youth, most of whom are caught up in the juvenile justice system.
- Pair Houston empowers youth to navigate American society, reach their academic potential and become community leaders.
- The Dynamo Unified team is a league wide partnership between MLS and Special Olympics, that allows athletes with disabilities and those without to play together.



# HOUSTON DYNAMO UNIFIED TEAM

PRESENTED BY 76®

For the fourth season, Houston Dynamo, 76® and Special Olympics Texas collaborated to leverage the power of sports to promote an environment of social inclusion and acceptance. In March, Special Olympics and Dynamo Youth Program coaches held try outs at Houston Sports Park and selected 17 athletes and partners to form the Houston Dynamo Unified team, comprised of youth with and without disabilities.



## HOUSTON DYNAMO UNIFIED TEAM PRESENTED BY 76

### SIGNING DAY

The Dynamo Unified Team was introduced in April at BBVA Stadium during a very special press conference. Each of the Dynamo Unified athletes and partners signed an official player contract with the Houston Dynamo and took part in photo shoots just like their first team counterparts. Players received team uniforms and training gear compliments of 76®.



## SCRIMMAGE

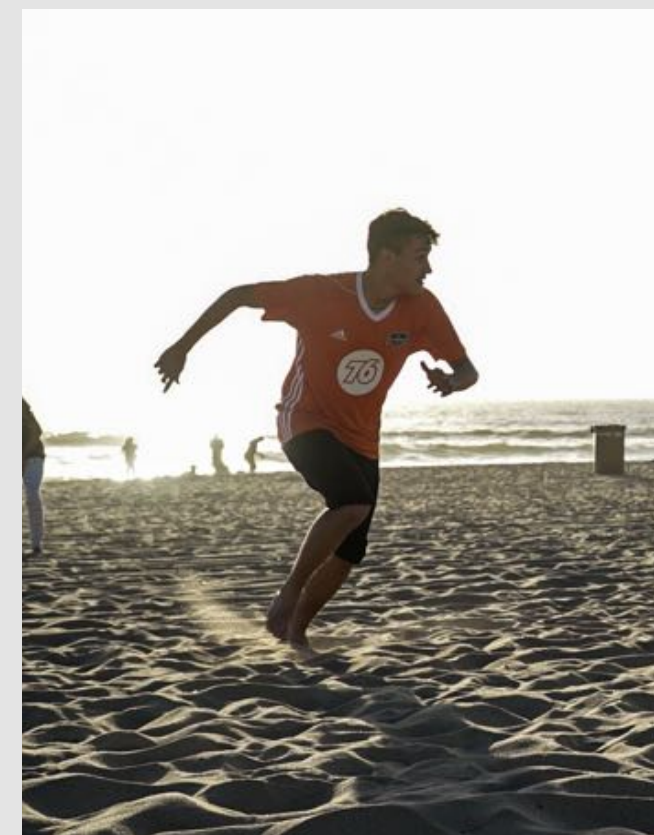
The Dynamo Unified Team, presented by 76®, scrimmaged Dynamo Academy U19's and front office staff members throughout the season. Practices were held on a regular basis to prepare for matches against LA Galaxy, Chicago Fire and FC Dallas.



## HOME AND AWAY GAMES

During the 2019 season, Dynamo Unified, presented by 76®, traveled to Los Angeles to play against LA Galaxy. LA Galaxy Unified hosted a beach activity night for both teams, where players mingled and participated in games such as volleyball and beach soccer. In August, Dynamo Unified hosted Chicago Fire Unified and concluded the season in Frisco to play against FC Dallas.

- LA Galaxy Unified vs. Dynamo Unified L 2-1  
Friday, April 19 at Dignity Health Sports Park
- Dynamo Unified vs. Chicago Fire Unified T 1-1  
Saturday, August 3 at BBVA Stadium
- FC Dallas Unified vs. Dynamo Unified W 2-1  
Sunday, August 25 at Toyota Stadium







# HOSPITAL VISITS

## MD ANDERSON PROM PARTY PALOOZA

Dynamo players and legends helped several patients at the Dress and Suit shop make their fashion selections to wear to Prom Party Palooza.





## MD ANDERSON PRO FIT CLINIC

Houston Dynamo & Dash players attended the MD Anderson Pro-Fit Clinic to help encourage young cancer patients to get up and be active after chemo treatments to aid in their recovery time. Players from both the Houston Dynamo and Houston Dash led soccer activities for all patients to participate and ended the visit with autographs.



# KICK CHILDHOOD CANCER

Every day, 40 children are diagnosed with cancer, and across all ages, ethnic and socio-economic groups, cancer remains the number one cause of death by disease in children. During the month of September MLS, The Houston Dynamo & Houston Dash intensify the effort to create awareness for children battling cancer, raise funds for research and provide special opportunities both children and adults alike.



## KICK CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPERHERO CAPES

In partnership with Austen Everette Foundation & Coming Up Rosies, 11 children who were battling cancer or are in remission were selected to be the part of the Dynamo Dream Team and walk out hand in hand with Dynamo players during Kick Childhood Cancer Night prior to the game on September 21st. Each child received a Coming Up Rosies Smile Kit which provided a canvas for children to paint and express their creativity. Each child's work of art was turned into their very own superhero cape. All 11 kids were invited down to the Dynamo training facility to meet players and take part in a photoshoot featuring the kids in their capes as well as Dynamo players who joined in with their very own gold capes.

## HONORARY KID CAPTAIN

On September 20, 2019, Sebastian Robles, a 12 year old who fought a tough battle against Leukemia ALL Acute High Risk and is now in remission, arrived to the training facility under the impression of being the special guest at the Dynamo training and left as the Honorary Captain of the Houston Dynamo for Kick Childhood Cancer Night. Sebastian signed a two-day contract offered by Dynamo GM Matt Jordan and was greeted by Davy Arnaud and DaMarcus Beasley. DaMarcus led Sebastian to his very own locker where he received his new Dynamo uniform, t-shirts, hats, and was welcomed into the Dynamo family by his new teammates. Sebastian was then able to lead the team onto the field the next night with DaMarcus Beasley.





## KICK CHILDHOOD CANCER

### RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE HOUSTON

Houston Dynamo staff, fans and player wives served dinner and provided an art project for kids and families at Ronald McDonald House Houston as part of Kick Childhood Cancer Month. Dynamo Diesel joined in the fun and played soccer and created arts projects with families and patients.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Throughout the season Dynamo & Dash players, front office staff and fans completed over 1,255 hours of community service in the Houston area. Dynamo Charities worked with various organization around Houston including Kids' Meals, The Beacon and Ronald McDonald House Houston and Be an Angel.





# PLAYER INITIATIVES

## ALBERTH ELIS DONATES A COMPUTER LAB

Dynamo forward Alberth Elis made his mark off the field using his time in the off season to improve the futures of school children in his hometown of San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Elis donated a computer lab to his elementary school and refurbished the room with new paint. Dynamo Charities joined in with a donation of a printer to be used by the school.



## BONIEK GARCIA DONATES TO HIS COMMUNITY

During the off season Boniek travels around his native Honduras helping children and adults in need. Since 2017, over 2,000 children and adults from La Ceiba, El Progreso, Tela, San Pedro Sula, La Paz and Tegucigalpa have benefited from donations made by Boniek.





## PLAYER INITIATIVES

### MAYNOR FIGUEROA IN NUEVA ARMENIA, HONDURAS

Dynamo Defender Maynor Figueroa helped over 300 children in his hometown of Nueva Armenia in Honduras and has been doing this for over eight years. Adults and children in Nueva Armenia benefited from a donation of clothes, shoes and soccer equipment.

# KICK4KIDS

## TICKET DONATIONS

The Kicks4Kids program offers children, who would not otherwise be able to, the opportunity to enjoy a Dynamo or Dash game free of charge. Thank you to the 2019 Kicks4Kids Partners and Dynamo & Dash Members for donating over 8,000 tickets to children in the greater Houston area.



## OUR CONTRIBUTORS



## MEMBER DONATIONS

- Jaime Bonilla
- Janie Blich
- Marion Wright
- Outlook Wealth Advisors
- Roger Trottman
- Tomas Talley
- Win & Terrie Warren

Dynamo Charities

PRESENTED BY HALLIBURTON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

# 2019 DONORS

