Providing support and resources in a safe, welcoming environment for the diverse community of racetrack workers and their families.
DEAR FRIEND,

Thank you for being involved in the work of the Backside Learning Center (BLC) in a meaningful way. If you’ve been following our work over the past several years, you know that we have grown exponentially. Just 10 years ago, we were a small program under the Kentucky Derby Museum with only two staff members and a core of volunteers. Today, we are a thriving Independent non-profit organization, with four departments and 13 staff members, with an active and engaged Board of Directors, and as always, a fearless crew of volunteers. We have completed almost 10 years since we took the important step of holding programming both on and off the track, so that we can serve not only backside employees but their families as well.

This year has been one of transition, as we have been able to improve and expand our current programming. This includes early childhood development, after-school tutoring and enrichment, adult English classes, mental health therapy, and case management. We have also added new programs including a parent support group and a youth group called “Creciendo Juntos” or “Growing Up Together”, providing important supports to our middle and high schoolers. Our community impact has reached new levels.

In addition to our many programs and services, we play a vital role in serving as a safe place. Any person of any background, belief, color, nationality, gender is welcomed with open arms and treated with respect and dignity.

In a society that is increasingly more diverse in every sense of the word, it is critical we all continue to educate ourselves on what we can each do so our society can continue to evolve into one that is more just and inclusive.

Thank you for being involved in the work of the Backside Learning Center (BLC) in a meaningful way. Whether it’s been by donating time, ideas, physical or financial resources, we are truly grateful you have chosen to be a part of the BLC.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do as we show our gratitude to the wonderful Backside community!

Sherry D. Stanley, executive director and the entire team of BLC staff, board, volunteers and backside workers and families
MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

1,300+ PEOPLE SERVED

16 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

15 PROGRAMS OFFERED

BLC STAFF

LEADERSHIP:
Sherry Stanley, Executive Director
Lauren DeGeorge, Deputy Director

ADMINISTRATIVE:
Alexina Wilson, Operations & Volunteer Coordinator (PT)
Beth Hartvigsen, Accountant (Independent Consultant)

YOUTH PROGRAMMING:
Mariah Levine Garcia, Youth Programs Manager (PT)
Micaela Vizcarrondo, Youth Engagement Coordinator
Dina Busaleh, Youth Development Assistant (PT)
Dalia Barajas, Youth Development Assistant (PT)

ADULT PROGRAMMING & SOCIAL SERVICES:
Alma Aldana, Adult Programs Manager
Jennifer Dutton, Social Services Manager
Merlin Cano, Community Wellness & Services Coordinator
Elena Tarullo, Youth & Family Case Coordinator
Karla Peacock, JCPS English Teacher
Daily Menendez, JCPS English Teacher

COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT:
Peyton Hobson, Communications & Marketing Manager
Andrew Crum, Development & Communications Associate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Pam Conway, President
Cassie Blausey, Vice President
Annie Jessee, Secretary
Jeff Musgrove, Treasurer

MEMBERS:
Caton Bredar
David “Masey” Goatley
Carla Grego
Jeff Kennedy
Cory Stauble
Dave Burianek
Glenn Kosse
Jim Ratterman
Xaimara Torres

1,300+ PEOPLE SERVED

16 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

15 PROGRAMS OFFERED
EDUCATION

In 2022, the BLC continued to provide a variety of educational programs and services for both adult workers on the backside and the children of racetrack workers.

Our adult educational programming primarily centers around English language acquisition that focuses on practical application in both the racetrack work setting and day-to-day interactions, with beginner, intermediate, and advanced English classes available with language exchange opportunities as well (Conversation Partners). On top of language acquisition, the BLC provides education to adults in the form of citizenship support, an adult mentorship program, and more.

Our youth educational programming focuses on overall literacy development, Social Emotional learning, and advocacy. We work side-by-side with our youth to foster healthy communication and emotion management skills that are applicable to both academic and social environments. Some of our youth-focused initiatives are our Front Runners after-school program, one-on-one academic tutoring, and an in-home summer reading program.

“It feels like this place is your own. I’ve begun really confiding in those who work here.”
- Jesús, exercise rider

English class and conversation partners participant

158
ADULTS PARTICIPATING IN ENGLISH CLASSES

45
YOUTH IN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

80%
YOUTH IMPROVED UPON THEIR LITERACY LEVEL
This past year saw tremendous growth in our youth and family empowerment programming, with two major initiatives that amplify interests and concerns of equine families and youth.

“El Grupo De Mamás”, or “The Mom’s Group”, is a parent support group focusing on the importance of literacy in early childhood education. The group partners with other organizations and focuses on strengthening community, leadership development, and creating space for parents to learn from and support one another.

Creciendo Juntos, or “Growing Up Together”, is a group focused on empowering the teen children of the workers of the backside community to become healthy, effective leaders and agents of change within their community. For the last phase of this program, we encourage our students to go and make changes on their own to positively impact their communities!

Additional empowerment programming includes Say & Play with Words – in partnership with National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) and LENA (Language Environment Analysis), Bilingual informational workshops, & Self-advocacy support & guidance.

“Jessica: To sum it all up, we’re Hispanic teenagers, TRYING to change the community, in a good way, towards good. ”
- Jessica Alvarez
Creciendo Juntos president

20 PARENTS IN MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUPS
10 FAMILIES COMPLETING LENA
13 TEENS PARTICIPATING IN CRECIENDO JUNTOS
The BLC organizes enrichment & adventure outings for our clients that place an emphasis on mindfulness and connecting with the natural world. Some of our community partners include:

- Bernheim Forest & Research Arboretum
- Louisville Engaging Children Outdoors
- Passionist Earth & Spirit Center
- Louisville Nature Center

Moreover, we facilitate unique opportunities to engage with the arts in our diverse local community:

- Kentucky Center for the Arts
- Actors Theater
- Louisville Academy of Music
- Kentucky Shakespeare
- Speed Art Museum

Lastly, we want to acknowledge the organizations partnering with us in educational endeavors:

- Exploited Children’s Help Organization
- AnyOneCanRead
- I Would Rather Be Reading
- Iroquois Library

CULTURE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In collaboration with numerous local organizations, the BLC offers outings and excursions focused on creating meaningful, ongoing connections with the greater Louisville community. Many of these partnerships take place during the summer and include scholarships for summer camps.

105 UNIQUE SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCES

280 HOURS SPENT WITH SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCES
HEALTH & WELLNESS

A major success for the BLC this past year has been our initiative to focus on the health and wellness of the backside community. We focus on both physical or mental health, as this is a critical need, especially among immigrants and people of color in the local area.

Our weekly fresh food market serves an average of 40 families per week, allowing our clients to select from a variety of fresh produce, meats, grains, and dairy products in order to address community food insecurity.

This past year, we began offering in-house therapy free of charge to backside community members, youth and adults alike.

Our office additionally serves as an access point for first aid, hygiene items, reproductive health materials and medical referrals for backside workers and their family members. The BLC provides access to community resource fairs, informational health chats, trainings, and more!

- **40** families participating in our fresh food market, weekly
- **25** families participating in weekly bread donations
- **101** families receiving holiday baskets
- **30** individuals receiving mental health services
HUMAN SERVICES

Because of our unique location and longstanding commitment to partnering with our families, our clients entrust us with their challenges, losses, and accomplishments. Every day looks different at the BLC as we adapt to the needs and interests of the community.

Clients with more complex situations may participate in our comprehensive case management programming. A case manager will work in partnership with clients to create short and long-term goals and work towards their achievement. We often refer clients to partners and local community resources that have the specializations needed to most effectively meet our clients’ needs. We seek to continue to provide a safe environment where clients can feel they have a home away from home. Our ultimate goal is to encourage clients to form long lasting connections to the larger Louisville community.

OUR IN-HOUSE SERVICES:
- Mental health support
- Community financial resources
- Youth-specific services
- JCPS navigation
- Legal referrals
- Mail distribution
- Transportation access
- Internet, copies, printing
- Digital literacy
- Translation and interpretation
- Housing support
- Help opening bank accounts
- Enrollments for programming
- Much more

“I know I can come to you guys, no matter the problem. You guys are always there when I need you.”
-Baltazar, groom

English class and conversation partners participant
FINANCIAL INFO, 2022 FISCAL YEAR

**TOTAL REVENUE: $629,943**
- Individual Donations: $191,942
- Corporate Donations: $130,429
- Purses for a Purpose program: $12,921
- Grants: $126,301
- Special Events: $133,364
- In-Kind Contributions: $34,986

**TOTAL EXPENSES: $633,698**
- Programs Expenses: $491,848
- Administrative Expenses: $122,765
- Direct Fundraising Expenses: $18,984

MAJOR FOUNDATION & CORPORATE PARTNERS
A HUGE THANK YOU TO:

$25,000 and above
• Brook and Pam Smith
• Churchill Downs Incorporated
• Clarendon Flavors
• Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence
• Meeker Family
• Metro United Way
• Party Horses

$10,000–$24,999
• AT&T
• Brown-Forman
• Cheryl Silvey-Slusher
• Richard & Beth Klein
• RW Marshall Private Foundation
• Sandra Frazier
• Thoroughbred Charities of America
• UPS

$5,000–$9,999
• Blackout Racing Stables
• Christian Word Ministries
• Churchill Downs Racing Committee
• Craig & Lindsey Bernick, the Thoroughbred Idea Foundation, & the Lavin Family Foundation
• Jean Zehnder
• Kentucky Thoroughbred Association
• KY Youth Advocates
• Lindy B. Street
• Mark & Laurie Atwell
• Susan & Lee Bishop

$1,000–$4,999
• Alise & Roxy Roxborough
• Allie & Masey Goatley
• Amber & Paul Halloran
• Amy Lapinski
• Anita Ebert
• Barbara McDaniel
• Beth Stremel
• Brad Cox Racing Stable
• Cory & Brandon Stabile
• Brian DiDonato
• Brookledge Transportation
• Catholic Charities
• Caton Bredar
• Charles & Donna Ross
• Crossroads Ministry
• Dars, Inc.

$250–$999
• Abelardo Saavedra
• Amy Landon
• Angie Kelley
• Annie Jesse
• Ashley Bedingfield
• Betsy Janes
• Bill & Mary Beth Comer
• Brent Gasaway
• Bret Calhoun
• Bruce Davis
• Carla Grego
• Mark & Caroline Donnelly
• Cassie Blausey
• Catherine Wessel
• Chris Haragan
• Connie & Will Hobson
• Damian Osborne
• David Brink
• Debbie Boklage
• Debbie Rogers
• Donna Brothers
• Elizabeth Taylor
• Jason Lucke
• Frank S. & Keitt M. Wood
• Fred Hall
• Gary Young
• Gladys Lopez
• Gordon Crum
• Greg Stanley
• James Franks
• Janet Montano
• Jeffery Sherwood
• Jennifer Colyer
• Jim Carrico
• Joan O Lenahan
• Julia Carstanjen
• Karen Nelson
• Kathy Bloch
• Kelly Maxwell
• Kelly Ramsey
• Kenny Pritchett
• Kim Johnson
• Kimberly Crowley
• Kristin Stuedle
• Logan Ormerod
• Lorie Michaels
• Louisville Metro Government
• Mary & Joel Turner
• Mary and Terry Roseman
• Matthew Hartlage
• Maureen Sullivan
• Michael Snyder
• Michelle Sturgeon
• Mike & Missy Ormerod
• National Turf Writers Association
• Nora King
• Pamela Wessel
• Paula Burke
• Peter Ronald
• Ron Moquett
• Rudy Schlich
• Sacred Heart Model School
• Sandal Gulick
• Scott Crum
• Scott Neff
Shawn Dennis
Shayne Harris
Shircliff Ladies LLC
Stephen Sample
Stu Crum
Sue Vislisel
Susan Smith
Suzanne Houston
Tommy Motley
Thomas Wills
Tonya Abeln
Trevor Brown Construction
Vicki & Mike Tomlinson

$100–$249
Ajay Singh
Alayne Wright
Alex Crum
Alex Garzaro
Andrew Serling
Angela Ariatti
Anna Shrade
Ashley Steimel
Barbara Donaldson
Bart Attaya
Bart Whitehouse
Bernie Lubbers
Betty Dabney Brown
Beverly Totten
Bill Stone
Bill Wetterer
Bonnie Heath
Brenda Cahill
Brian Bruenderman
Bruce Thomson
Carol Bertke
Cassiopeia Blausey
Charles Deters
Charles Fothergill
Charles Woods
Christie Leigh
Christopher Murphy
Cinnamon Jawor
Clarence Weathers
Clayton Crum
Cynthia Lee
Dale Skaggs
Dana Dougherty Evans
Darcy Thompson
Darian Decker
Deanna Keal

Deborah Dawson-Crain
Donald Wenkel
Donna Barnett
Edith Wells
Erica Bowen
F.P. Sprinkle
Garrett Feldkamp
Gary Lee
Gary Lloyd
Gina Higginbotham
G.J. Alcock
Glenn Kosse
Gordon “Poppie” Crum
Grace Wooding
Gwyn Lavin
Hannah Salmon
James Host
James Montgomery
Jan Landow
Jeanie Fortwengler
Jeffrey Filick
Jeffrey Kaiser
Jennifer Keegan
Jessica Rich
Jill Mattingly
Jim Tougher
Joan D Powers
Joel Crum
Johanna Wheatley
John Koehliger
Joseph Halloran
Joseph McMahen
Karina Barillas
Katherine Crum
Kathy McCombs
Kathy Troutman
Katie Hilbert
Kennedy Eden
Kevin Kerstein
Kim Stanley
Kim Tobin
Kristin Hoch
Kristine Nicolas
Larry Riley
Larry Whelan
Laura Herberholz
Laura Maniccia
Leadership Southern Indiana
Leah Eggers
Leah Jessee
Lisa Daniel
Lisa Pelle

Lu Valdizan
Lydia Donaldson
Mary Graves
Mary Jackson
Mary Pack
Mary Susan Meyer
Mary Werner
Megan Connolly
Melissa Ormerod
Merleta Weisert
Michael Beychock
Mike Schoenman
Monty Fields
Nancy Meiers
Nicole Powers
Oliver Barber
Paola Morante
Patrick Trainor
Rachel Gonzalez
Renee & Hal Wiggins
Renee Shomer
Rep. David and Loren Hebel-Osborne
Rob Pearson
Robert Decker
Sally Weinberg
Sandra Kleet Gutermuth
Sara Carpenter
Sean Beirne
Sharon Darling
Sharon Davenport
Sherry Richter
Sherry Stanley
Sherry Thompson
Stephanie & William Gardner
Steve Bass
Steve Margolis
Tawana Edwards
Teresa Reed
Tom Hammond
Tom Sherman
Tracy Scott
Trunk & Hutch
Vernon Smith
Virginia Cromer
Virginia Gregory
Wendy Payton
William Farmer
William Yancey
Yasser Pupo
Zachary Ferguson

*OCT 2021– SEPT 2022 FISCAL YEAR
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING, SCAN THE QR CODE ON THIS PAGE, CALL THE NUMBER BELOW, OR EMAIL AWILSON@BACKSIDELEARNINGCENTER.ORG.

VOLUNTEER:
- “Front Runners” after-school program
- One-on-one tutoring
- Conversation partners
- Fresh food market
- Adult English classes
- Transportation services
- Community outreach/tabling events
- Moving furniture and/or delivery of donations
- Special events assistance
- Photography/video/social media

DONATE:
- Monetary donations
- Item donations
- Wish List donations
- Purses for a Purpose (for Thoroughbred Owners)

HELP US IN OTHER WAYS:
- Attend special events (Benefit for the Backside, Derby Handicapping Social)
- Host a “Friendraiser” to educate friends about the BLC!
- Join a board committee
- Come for a tour to learn more!