



StudentsCare

2025 Annual Report





ERICA SOKOL CARROLL

Founder & CEO

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude and pride for what the StudentsCare community accomplished together. This year was marked by meaningful growth, powerful partnerships, and countless moments of human connection that reminded us why this work matters. One of the most transformative milestones of the year was receiving a major grant from the Epworth Senior Community Foundation. This support allowed us to significantly expand our Senior Buddy Program across Miami-Dade County, reaching more older adults experiencing isolation and strengthening intergenerational bonds. We are also grateful for the continued support of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, whose partnership remains vital to sustaining and growing our impact.

In 2025, StudentsCare served communities across eight states. We proudly launched two new Hospital Buddy Program sites, eight new Senior Buddy Program sites, and four new college student chapters—each representing new relationships, new volunteers, and new opportunities to reduce loneliness and build empathy. This year also brought exciting growth to our team. In July, we welcomed Marla Cocalis as our new Program Manager, strengthening our leadership and operational capacity. We were thrilled to add three talented interns—Daira, Tina, and Bella—who focused on marketing and communications and helped us elevate our storytelling and outreach. Our gratitude extends to Beth Jativa, whose continued dedication has been invaluable, and we were delighted to celebrate the arrival of her new baby, Zeke, in August. We also deeply appreciate longtime Program Manager Tami Robinson for her steadfast support of our students and programs, including her leadership in expanding our Philadelphia presence with support from The Bernard and Etta Weinberg Family Fund at The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

Throughout the year, we were inspired by extraordinary stories of impact—from pediatric hospital rooms to senior living communities. We heard from caregivers, general managers, and hospital administrators about the profound difference StudentsCare volunteers make, and we could not be more proud of the compassion and commitment our students bring to every visit.

Toward the end of 2025, we initiated a strategic planning process with our board and staff, facilitated by pro-bono consultant Lori Williams. This important work will guide StudentsCare over the next three to five years, with a focus on sustainable funding, program scalability, board development, and organizational capacity building. We closed the year with successful Give Miami and year-end fundraising campaigns, creating strong momentum as we look ahead. As we move into 2026, we are energized by the growth, learning, and impact of the past year—and excited to continue building a future where no child or older adult feels alone.

Thank you for believing in StudentsCare and for being part of this journey.

*With Care,
Erica Sokol Carroll*



VISION

Connecting undergraduate healthcare students nationwide with hospitalized children, isolated older adults, and their families, to provide fun, friendship and support.

MISSION

A world in which healthcare providers demonstrate empathy and kindness and hospitalized children and isolated older adults receive compassionate care.

OUR PROGRAMS

HOSPITAL BUDDY PROGRAM

Provides critical direct support that can improve healthcare outcomes for pediatric patients. Partnering with hospital staff, we pair college students with young patients to help alleviate the emotional effects of long-term hospitalization.

SENIOR BUDDY PROGRAM

Fosters meaningful intergenerational connections by pairing college students with older adults in assisted living facilities and community centers. This program helps reduce social isolation and loneliness, improving the overall well-being of the residents.



StudentsCare

2025 GROWTH

HOSPITAL BUDDY PROGRAM

2 new Hospital Buddy Program sites launched

SENIOR BUDDY PROGRAM

8 new Senior Buddy Program sites launched

UNIVERSITY CHAPTERS

4 new college student chapters founded

13 UNIVERSITY CHAPTERS

8 STATES



*Drexel University**
 Florida International University
*Holy Family University**
*Miami Dade College**
 Michigan State University
 Nova Southeastern University
 St. Louis University
 University of Central Florida
 University of Miami
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Texas at Austin
 University of Washington
*University of Wisconsin-Madison**

30 PARTNERING SITES

Florida

*AdventHealth Orlando**
 Area Agency on Aging of Broward County
 Baptist Health
 Camp Boggy Creek
*Deedco Gardens**
*Grand Living at Coral Gables**
 Holtz Children's Hospital
 Jackson Memorial Long-Term Care Center
 Miami Cancer Institute
 Nemours Children's Hospital, Florida
 Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children
*Pinecrest Community Center**
 Residential Plaza at Blue Lagoon
 Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Florida
 Somerby Lake Nona

Michigan

*Burcham Hills**
 University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Lansing

Missouri

STL Village
 World Pediatrics

Pennsylvania

Annabel Gardens
*Ephraim Goldstein Apartments**
*Miniam & Robert M. Rieder Apartments**
 Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Philadelphia Region
*Samuel A. Green House**
 St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

Texas

Dell Children's Medical Center at Ascension Seton
 Parsons House Austin

Washington

Queen Anne Healthcare
*Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington & Alaska**

Wisconsin

*Oak Park Place**

* Indicates a newly established chapter or site within the current reporting period

IMPACT BY NUMBERS



2025 ENGAGEMENT

100

new students trained

160

active students volunteered

4,455+

total hours volunteered

COMMUNITY REACH



9,760+

total buddy interactions

4,280+

interactions with hospitalized children

5,460+

interactions with isolated seniors

These figures are based on metrics manually logged by volunteers. True values are likely greater.



2025 SOURCES OF REVENUE

\$178,615
85%
Grants

\$210,261
Total Revenue

\$31,644
15%
Individual Donations



4,456
hours volunteered

=

\$150,566
value of volunteer time

Based on the current estimated national value of \$33.79 per volunteer hour, as determined by *Independent Sector*.

STORIES OF CONNECTION



"We always try to talk and do different activities, and one of them is singing. Her daughter sent me a list of songs that she likes, and I have added others that she also enjoys, mostly boleros and tangos. For me, it is incredible how, even though she does not remember my name or what she ate for lunch, she remembers the lyrics of the songs very well when we start listening to them- even songs she sang when she was very young. Now I have a playlist of her favorite songs on my phone, and every time I visit her, I play it. Even when we are doing other activities, such as painting, the music plays in the background and gives us inspiration and joy."

MIREYA CAMELO BUEND | SENIOR BUDDY PROGRAM, MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

"I had the opportunity to spend hours playing and talking with an 18-year-old girl- she was a TBI patient waiting between treatments. We played a very intense game of checkers, and did a puzzle. She is very very creative and loves to paint so we did an arts and crafts activity as well- hers came out much better than mine!

Then, I set up for another end of treatment celebration for a little boy! I helped set up the gifts and the floor. We got everyone on the floor to sign a book for him. There were over 20 people who came to celebrate, it was an amazing moment. He was soo happy and excited!"

SOFIA LOZANO | HOSPITAL BUDDY PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



STORIES OF CONNECTION



GRAND LIVING®

YOUR LIFE. UNIQUELY EMBRACED.

"You have made me cry...There are no words to express our gratitude for making a difference in our residents' lives."

LISETTE VALDES BRITO | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

"StudentsCare has truly had a meaningful impact on my life. Being part of StudentsCare has helped me grow not only as a volunteer, but as a person. Spending time with the elderly—whether we're celebrating at a Christmas party, having simple conversations, or just sitting and keeping them company—has taught me patience, empathy, and the importance of human connection"

JEANMIKE JOURDAN | HOSPITAL & SENIOR BUDDY PROGRAM, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

"Unlike many volunteer roles that feel task-oriented or short-term, StudentsCare fosters a genuine, ongoing relationship. It is not just about completing service hours; it is about building trust and being present consistently. That continuity created a deeper connection and allowed me to see real growth over time, which made the experience far more impactful and rewarding."

ALEXANDRA RICO | SENIOR BUDDY PROGRAM, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

"My experience with StudentsCare differed from other volunteer opportunities because it allowed me to contribute not only through direct service, but also behind the scenes by helping coordinate, organize, and sustain volunteer efforts. Being involved in both leadership and service gave me a deeper appreciation for the planning and responsibility required to make community care meaningful and lasting."

RAMIA RAFIQ | HOSPITAL BUDDY PROGRAM, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

THANK YOU 2025 DONORS

Your belief in the power of human connection makes this work possible. Together, we are transforming moments of loneliness into moments of care.



Area Agency on Aging
of Broward County



Jewish Federation
of Greater Philadelphia



GREATER MIAMI
JEWISH
FEDERATION



Judy Adler
Bruce Alter
Connie Alter
Ayla Amjad
Bast Amron
Christie Atchison
Ellen Arian
Dorene Baker
Adam Barrett
DaVette Becker
Lori Bejar
Bruce Behren
Anya Beniwal
Donald Berg
Marc Borovoy
Michele Borovoy
Cathy Block
Diane Carroll
Scott Carroll

Victoria Chan
Kristen Cheung
Lorin Cohen
Jeremy Dauber
Dylan Davis
Phil Davidson
Ruth Davidson
Anshul Desai
Shridhi Desai
Viren Doshi
Scott Fane
Elena Finer
Marc Finer
Allan Goldberg
Diane Goldberg
Lisa Goldstein
Tracy Gervais
Mariana Hernandez
Melanie Hernandez

Beverly Katz
Vili Kellman
Kaylie Kerr
Laura Koffsy
Mindy Kurkin
Mark Kurkin
Nicole Lavene
Randena Leonard
Hillary Leone
Mary Lioudis
Nancy Lipoff
Yvette Lozano
Sofia Lozano
Arlene Mahon
Becky Manfredi
Ali Mendoza
Gabe Mendoza
Michael Meyer
Sherri Mansell

Larry Mansell
Eric Nagurney
Anusha Narway
Abigail Norris
Ann Maura Ohare
Pamela Reuter
Tami Robinson
Isabella Rodrigues
Diane Sapir
Diane Schilit
Coleman Smith
Brad Sokol
Lauren Sokol
Andrew Sokol
Daira Suster-Sanchez
Bob Traino
Caryn Whitman
Shari Whitcomb
Jill Zemel



LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into 2026, StudentsCare is focused on deepening impact, strengthening partnerships, and building a strong foundation for long-term sustainability and growth.

We are grateful for the continued support of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Epworth Senior Community Foundation, whose ongoing investments will allow us to further expand the Senior Buddy Program across Miami-Dade County. Through these partnerships, we will reach more older adults experiencing isolation while continuing to support and train college students as compassionate companions.

In Greater Philadelphia, September 2026 begins the third and final year of funding from The Bernard and Etta Weinberg Family Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. This support will enable continued expansion of the Senior Buddy Program into additional senior living sites throughout the region. During this year, StudentsCare will also prioritize securing new and diversified revenue to ensure that senior programming in Greater Philadelphia remains strong, sustainable, and positioned for continued growth beyond the grant period.

At the organizational level, StudentsCare is actively developing a three-to-five-year strategic plan that will guide our next phase of growth. We look forward to engaging key stakeholders—including students, partners, funders, and community members—in refining our goals around program scalability, sustainable funding, board development, and organizational capacity.

Together, these efforts position StudentsCare to enter 2026 with clarity, purpose, and optimism as we continue working toward a future in which healthcare providers demonstrate empathy and kindness and hospitalized children and isolated older adults receive compassionate care.



StudentsCare

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