To create, maintain and support community programs in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area that encourage participation in hockey, serve to educate youth, assist those who are less fortunate and focus on health and wellness.

Washington Capitals Charities is also committed to supporting the charitable endeavors, initiatives and foundations of the team’s players and alumni.
Potomac Valley Amateur Hockey Association: For the third year in a row, Washington Capitals Charities partnered with the Potomac Valley Amateur Hockey Association (PVAHA) John Crerar Hockey Development Grants program, providing a $25,000 grant in 2011. This money was distributed to 16 area hockey programs to increase participation and promote hockey within Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The general areas targeted for the grants included diversity hockey, disabled hockey, cross-ice hockey, Grow the Game programs and the American Development Model. Thanks in part to WCC’s grant, PVAHA had 2,141 new players during the 2011-12 season, an increase of 13% from the season before. Since 2009 when Washington Capitals Charities began providing funding for this grant, PVAHA’s participation has increased by 35%.

USA Warriors Ice Hockey Program: Washington Capitals Charities partnered with the National Hockey League to present a $10,000 donation to the USA Warriors Ice Hockey Program during a special charity event in support of the nonprofit hockey organization at Kettler Capitals Iceplex in 2011. USA Warriors Ice Hockey Program, sanctioned by USA Hockey and a member of the NHL’s Hockey is for Everyone™ initiative, is a nonprofit organization serving military personnel wounded in defense of the United States. The nationally recognized program leverages the sport of hockey as a catalyst to assist disabled service members as they return to mainstream lifestyles.

Friends of Fort Dupont Ice Arena: Washington Capitals Charities donated $10,000 to Friends of Fort Dupont Ice Arena in 2011 to help fund its new Kids On Ice (KOI) P.L.U.S. program that will kick off in September 2012. Majority owner Ted Leonsis pledged the money during the Congressional Hockey Caucus briefing on Capitol Hill in February. KOI P.L.U.S. is the combination of classroom education with Fort Dupont’s advanced skating classes, including hockey, speed skating and synchronized skating. In order for skaters to participate in Fort Dupont’s free, advanced programs, they will be required to participate in 30-minute weekly classes that join academic subjects with skating topics. Combining education with skating will not only reinforce what the skaters are learning in school but also use academics in combination with a hobby they are passionate about. Fort Dupont is the only public indoor ice arena located in Washington, D.C., and the only skating facility in the area that provides free or subsidized skating programs to children. Its Kids On Ice program provides free figure skating, hockey and speed skating lessons to economically disadvantaged children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn these sports. Friends of Fort Dupont Ice Arena partners with public and private schools, summer camps, churches and local community organizations to promote and deliver its programs to more than 7,000 children per year.

Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club: Washington Capitals Charities provided $10,000 to the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club through a grant from the Garth Brooks Teammates For Kids Foundation. Founded in 1978, Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club is a developmental program that provides local and inner-city youth the opportunity to participate in an organized ice hockey program. It is one of only 30 programs throughout the United States and Canada privileged to be a member of the National Hockey League’s Hockey is for Everyone™ initiative and is the oldest minority hockey program in the United States. Since 2004 Washington Capitals Charities has donated $75,000 to the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club through annual Garth Brooks Teammates for Kids Foundation grants.

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Flashes of Hope: Washington Capitals Charities raised and donated nearly $30,000 to the Washington, D.C., chapter of Flashes of Hope through a jersey auction held during the team’s Hockey Fights Cancer Night in 2011. This is the third year in a row WCC provided a grant for Flashes of Hope. This grant ensured that the D.C. chapter, which Washington Capitals Charities helped establish at Children’s National Medical Center, would continue for another two years.

Flashes of Hope is a nonprofit organization that raises money for pediatric cancer research and changes the way children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses see themselves through the gift of photography. During the 2011-12 season 168 families were photographed during eight shoots. In October 2011 Caps forwards Jason Chimera and Brooks Laich participated in a hockey-themed photo shoot at Kettler Capitals Iceplex, spending time with Flashes of Hope patients and their families, taking photos and signing autographs. The goal of Flashes of Hope is to photograph every child with cancer until every child is cured.

WATCH VIDEO

Make-A-Wish Foundation: During the 2011-12 season Washington Capitals Charities helped fulfill three wishes for children from the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Working through the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic, Washington Capitals Charities, along with Alex Ovechkin and other Caps players, helped facilitate wishes for three children: Ellie Carney, 18, of Washington, D.C.; Robert Thompson, 18, of Essexville, Mich.; and Sam Jacobson, 15, of Boise, Idaho. All of the children attended a Caps game where they received an autographed Ovechkin jersey, watched the teams warm up from the penalty box, sat in either a suite or Ovechkin’s “Ovi’s Crazy 8s” section, rode the Olympia ice resurfacer during an intermission and spent time with their favorite player, Ovechkin, after the game.

WCC made sure that the Make-A-Wish children and their families had plenty of Capitals gear and merchandise. Robert and Sam attended practice sessions at Kettler Capitals Iceplex, toured the practice facility, met with other Caps players and each had his own stall set up in the team’s locker room with a personalized nameplate. Sam, a high school hockey player, also was given a full set of equipment from Bauer and was then able to skate with Ovechkin, Mike Green and Karl Alzner after practice.

WATCH VIDEO

We support health and wellness causes

Player Support: During the 2011-12 season Washington Capitals players Cody Eakin, Jeff Halpern, Marcus Johansson, Mathieu Perreault, Jeff Schultz and Joel Ward skated with youth hockey and learn to play programs at local ice rinks. The players visited Rockville Ice Arena in Rockville, Md., Kettler Capitals Iceplex in Arlington, Va., Fort Dupont Ice Arena in Washington, D.C., SkateQuest Reston in Reston, Va., Ashburn Ice House in Ashburn, Va., and The Gardens Ice House in Laurel, Md.

WATCH VIDEO

Service/Community Involvement: For the past three seasons Capitals Charities has hosted a service project at Fort Dupont Ice Arena in Washington, D.C. In June 2012 Capitals defenseman John Carlson and mascot Slapshot teamed up with 100 Caps fans to help spruce up the ice rink. Volunteers worked on indoor projects that included waxing the boards, cleaning the glass, painting the lobby and hallway behind the bleachers, cleaning hockey equipment, putting together goals and organizing other equipment. Outdoor projects included washing windows, landscaping and planting flower beds, raking leaves and sweeping the sidewalks and parking lot.

WATCH VIDEO

 Capitals Charities donated street hockey equipment to 20 schools in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., during the 2011-12 season. In total, more than $10,000 worth of street hockey equipment was donated by WCC through these programs.
Children’s National Medical Center: Washington Capitals Charities donated $25,000 from the 2012 Caps Care Casino Night and Auction proceeds to Children’s Hospital Foundation. This money was earmarked for the foundation’s uncompensated care fund. Children’s National Medical Center is committed to ensuring its care is available to all children in need, regardless of their family’s ability to pay. As the medical safety net for the children of the Washington area, the hospital serves nearby neighborhoods that have some of the worst health indicators in the nation. Children’s National’s reach goes well beyond the main hospital, with seven pediatric primary care health centers, three mobile health units that deliver care to underserved families and seven regional outpatient centers throughout the Washington metropolitan area.

Player Support: The Washington Capitals have participated in annual visits to Children’s National Medical Center since 1994. In February 2012 Caps players Karl Alzner, Jeff Halpern, Matt Hendricks and Mike Knuble along with mascot Slapshot spent the afternoon with patients at Children’s National. The Caps players spread smiles at the hospital while playing video games and cards, participating in arts and crafts projects and taking pictures and signing autographs for the children.

Serve DC Partnership: For the third-straight year Washington Capitals Charities partnered with Serve DC – The Mayor’s Office of Volunteerism to “adopt” a local school. During the 2011-12 season Caps Charities adopted Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, a Title I D.C. Public School (DCPS) located in Ward 5 that serves children in preschool through fifth grade.

To kick off the partnership Washington Capitals Charities participated in the annual D.C. Public Schools’ Beautification Day in August. The Capitals hosted a service project at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School in Northeast Washington headlined by Caps forward Matt Hendricks and John W. Marshall (son of Thurgood Marshall) that featured team mascot Slapshot and public address announcer Wes Johnson, DCPS chancellor Kaya Henderson and more than 125 Caps fans. The Caps and volunteers helped prepare the school for the upcoming school year by planting a garden, weeding and cleaning up the grounds, painting murals, classrooms and exterior doors, putting together a robotics table for the school’s robotics program, creating welcome signs, assembling goody bags for the students and helping teachers organize classrooms.

We support educational initiatives

For the past four years the Caps Better Halves also have participated in annual visits to Children’s National. Washington Capitals’ wives and girlfriends Ashley Beagle, Carmen Brouwer, Mandy Flemmer, Monika Hybnerova, Cynthia Lavio and Lindsay MacDonald visited Children’s National Medical Center in April 2012 to make spring-themed arts and crafts with patients in the hospital’s atrium.

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WATCH VIDEO

Throughout the course of the season, WCC and the Capitals grew their relationship with Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. More than $10,000 in equipment was donated to Thurgood Marshall as the school received a portion of the funds raised from the team’s Fall Puck Surprise. Caps Charities purchased a SMART Board, computer, printer, listening libraries with language CDs, educational DVDs and physical education equipment for the school.

In February 2012 Caps players Roman Hamrlik and Joel Ward, along with assistant coach Dean Evason and mascot Air-Slapshot brought the team’s Hockey School program to Thurgood Marshall Elementary. The
Capitals led a floor hockey clinic for 50 first- through fifth-grade students that focused on puck-handling, passing and shooting. The Caps players also answered questions and had the students participate in scrimmages. WCC donated the street hockey equipment used during the event to the school.

WATCH VIDEO

Following the clinic school principal Sharon Wells and head teacher George Hill led Ward on a tour of the school. The school administrators showed Ward the improvements made by Caps fans during the 2011 Beautification Day. Wells and Hill also showed the Caps forward the technology that Capitals Charities donated to the school and gave a tutorial on how the equipment works and is utilized by the students.

WATCH VIDEO

Junior Achievement: Monumental Sports & Entertainment (MSE) and Washington Capitals Charities are proud to serve as a storefront sponsor at Junior Achievement Finance Park in Fairfax, Va., where local students are able to build financial skills for life. Junior Achievement of Greater Washington provides students a real-world perspective of finance – one that is current, practical and easy to understand. Taking more than 15,000 middle school students each year into the world of business, Junior Achievement Finance Park is a month-long economics education program that introduces participants to personal financial planning and career exploration.

The Junior Achievement Finance Park experience begins in the classroom. The four-week classroom curriculum culminates with a day at Junior Achievement Finance Park, where students immerse themselves in a reality-based decision-making process that addresses aspects of individual and family budgeting, including housing, transportation, food, utilities, health care, investments, philanthropy and banking. The on-site activities are designed to allow students the opportunity to put into action what they have learned in the classroom and to understand the basic steps of maintaining a realistic personal budget. Two weeks of classroom follow-up allows students to use their new financial knowledge to explore career options and to set goals for their future.

Everybody Wins! DC: During the 2011-12 school year 20 staff members from Monumental Sports & Entertainment participated in the Everybody Wins! DC Power Lunch program, a literacy and mentoring program based in select elementary schools in the Washington metropolitan area. The goal of Power Lunch is to encourage children’s interest in reading, expand their opportunities for success and facilitate meaningful volunteer contributions.

Through the Power Lunch program, MSE staff members – including employees from the Washington Capitals, Mystics, Wizards and Verizon Center – were paired with students at Garrison Elementary School in Washington, D.C., and Key Elementary School in Arlington, Va. Each week during the school year, MSE staff members took time out of their day to visit with their mentees, spending time reading and sharing conversation during the lunch hour. The program concluded in May with year-end celebrations with each partner school during which all of the mentors and mentees were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the Power Lunch program.

READ MORE
Courage Caps: For the fifth year in a row the Washington Capitals reminded everyone what true courage is and called Caps fans to action through Courage Caps. Through this initiative the Capitals raised more than $105,000 for Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).

To kick off the initiative Washington Capitals Charities hosted 100 members of TAPS for a two-hour long skating party and pizza lunch at Kettler Capitals Iceplex in November with Caps forwards Jeff Halpern and Mike Knuble. Camouflage Courage Caps and T-shirts with camouflage Courage logos were then sold at Capitals games, at WashingtonCaps.com and at the team stores at Kettler Capitals Iceplex and Verizon Center. There also were a limited number of autographed Courage Caps and T-shirts available.

Courage Caps allowed the Capitals to raise funds for TAPS, a national nonprofit organization providing compassionate care for the families of America’s fallen military heroes. TAPS provides peer-based emotional support, grief and trauma resources, seminars for adults, good grief camps for children, case work assistance and a 24/7 resource helpline for all who have been affected by a death in the Armed Forces. Services are provided free of charge.

Since its inception the Courage Caps initiative has raised nearly $250,000 for worthwhile charities including Our Military Kids, USO-Metro and The Fisher House Foundation. Washington Capitals Charities has sold more than 8,000 Courage Caps in five years and more than 3,000 Courage T-shirts in three years.

USA Warriors: Washington Capitals Charities and the NHL donated $10,000 to the USA Warriors Ice Hockey Program at a charity hockey game at Kettler Capitals Iceplex in September 2011. The Caps, NHL and USA Warriors worked together with members of the Congressional Hockey Caucus to help plan this game that featured hockey-playing Capitol Hill staff members matched up against the Warrior team. Capitals alternate captain Mike Knuble dropped the ceremonial puck prior to the game and participated in the check presentation. Founded in 2007 the USA Warriors Ice Hockey Program trains and supplies injured soldiers with hockey equipment and the skills needed to use the sport of hockey as a rehabilitation tool to overcome both physical and mental injuries sustained in combat.

USO-Metro Service Project: Washington Capitals Charities helped fund the first Monumental Sports & Entertainment service project in July 2012. Capitals alumnus Rod Langway, a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, and Bullets alumni Bob Dandridge, Jack Marin and Larry Stewart participated alongside 40 MSE staff members, Caps mascot Slapshot, several Wizard Girls and 25 USO-Metro volunteers in an Operation USO Care Package event at the USO Warehouse in Fort Belvoir, Va. Langway, Dandridge, Marin, Stewart, Slapshot, the Wizard Girls and MSE employees spent the day volunteering with a mix of civilians, active duty military members and military spouses and children to assemble military family care packages that service members who are deploying will send home to their families.

USO-Metro is a nonprofit organization chartered by Congress and dedicated to “Serving those who serve, and their families” in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia. It is through the generous financial support of individuals and organizations in the local community that USO-Metro is able to fulfill its mission. With the help of nearly 5,000 devoted volunteers, USO-Metro provides programs and services for active duty troops and their families at area military hospitals, five USO Centers and four USO airport lounges and through its Mobile USO and Operation USO Care Package programs.
Food Drive: Every year the Washington Capitals hold a food drive to collect canned foods and other nonperishable food items to benefit the Capital Area Food Bank, which is the largest public nonprofit food and nutrition education resource in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. This year the Capital Area Food Bank is distributing 30 million pounds of food, including 15 million pounds of fresh produce, to more than 478,000 people through a network of more than 700 nonprofit partner agencies. The Capital Area Food Bank has served the National Capital region since 1980.

In 2011 the Capitals teamed up with Volkswagen, Comcast SportsNet, Mix 107.3 and The Washington Examiner and collected more than one ton of food and raised nearly $2,000 for the Capital Area Food Bank. Washington Capitals Charities made an additional $10,000 donation to the food bank. Through the canned food drive the Caps were able to provide more than 42,000 meals to those in need in the D.C. area. Caps fans spent their afternoon volunteering at the food bank in Washington, D.C. The group packed and sorted donated food and assembled 1,200 bags for the Weekend Bag program. The Weekend Bag program benefits D.C. area children who receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch throughout the week at school, providing them with nutritious, kid-friendly food bags to carry home for the weekend when school lunches are not available to them.

We support the local underserved population

Toy Drive: The holiday season is a time for giving and the Washington Capitals want to do their part in bringing a smile to the face of every child. The Capitals partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for their 12th annual Toys for Tots Toy Drive presented by GEICO in 2011. The Capitals, the Elliot in the Morning Show, Comcast SportsNet and The Examiner worked together to fill a 17-foot JK Moving Services truck with toys for disadvantaged children throughout the D.C. area. Caps Better Halves Carmen Brouwer, Kim Hendricks, Mandy Flemmer, Mackenzie Keeley and Lindsay MacDonald, along with the Red Rockers and the GEICO Gecko joined U.S. Marines outside of Verizon Center’s main entrance to collect toys and monetary donations. Every fan who donated a new, unwrapped toy received a commemorative Caps poster featuring toy drive spokesman Alex Ovechkin.

To kick off the toy drive campaign, Ovechkin along with Alan May from Comcast SportsNet, Elliot Segal from the Elliot in the Morning show, the GEICO Gecko and several U.S. Marines shopped for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation. Washington Capitals Charities donated more than $10,000 for the shoppers to purchase nearly 500 toys, which were distributed as holiday gifts to children in need in the Washington, D.C., area.

Family-to-Family Program: 2011 was the first year that all three Monumental Sports & Entertainment sports teams collaborated on the Family-to-Family program, which the Wizards created 16 years ago. The program allows the Caps, Mystics and Wizards to “adopt” families in need who are nominated by local schools and nonprofit organizations. This past holiday season more than 20 families were adopted by the teams’ charities, individual players and staff members.

The Family-to-Family program kicked off in November when Washington Capitals players’
wives and girlfriends partnered with the wives of the Washington Wizards’ coaching staff to shop for the 20 families adopted through the program. Caps players’ wives and girlfriends Carmen Brouwer, Amelia Falk, Mandy Flemmer, Kelley Halpern, Monika Hybnerova, Mackenzie Keeley, Megan Knuble and Lindsay MacDonald along with Patrice Cleary, wife of Wizards strength and conditioning coach Drew Cleary, Debbie Saunders, wife of Wizards coach Flip Saunders and Wizards assistant coach Ryan Saunders, shopped for 60 children and 25 adults. Clothing, educational items and toys were purchased for the children, while clothing and household items along with grocery gift cards were purchased for the parents and guardians. By the end of the day 75 shopping carts and one full-sized JK Moving Services truck were filled with clothing, bikes, toys and presents for the families.

WATCH VIDEO

In December, Washington Capitals players Nicklas Backstrom, John Carlson, Mike Green, Brooks Laich and Joel Ward, Washington Mystics player Monique Currie and Washington Wizards players Jordan Crawford, Shelvin Mack, Hamady Ndiaye and John Wall delivered Christmas presents to three families from MSE’s Family-to-Family program. The players along with Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld, team mascots G-Wiz and Slapshot, Red Rockers, Wizard Girls, MSE staff members and local media boarded a bus loaded with gifts for the families. The players spent the afternoon delivering presents to the Felder-Leslie family in Woodbridge, the White family in Trinidad and the Thompson family in Rosedale – all neighborhoods in northeast Washington.

Later that month Washington Capitals players Karl Alzner and fiancée Mandy Flemmer, Jeff Halpern, Roman Hamrlik and girlfriend Cynthia Lavoie, Michal Neuvirth and girlfriend Monika Hybnerova and Dennis Wideman and fiancée Lindsay McDonald, Washington Mystics player Monique Currie and Washington Wizards player Andrzej Blatche, JaVale McGee, Jan Vesely, Kevin Seraphin and Ronnie Turiaf hosted a holiday party for the recipients of the Family-to-Family program. More than 100 underserved children and families who were “adopted” by the teams attended the event, which was held on the Wizards practice court at Verizon Center. The children and families in attendance enjoyed an evening of refreshments, games and dancing with the Caps, Mystics and Wizards players, team mascots Slapshot and G-Wiz, Red Rockers and Wizard Girls who were all on hand to help spread holiday cheer to the deserving families. The children had a chance to play basketball and hockey with the pros, have their faces painted and take photos with Santa. At the end of the evening, each family left with bags overflowing with holiday gifts from the Caps, Wizards and Mystics.

WATCH VIDEO

Covenant House Washington: Washington Capitals Charities donated $10,000 to Covenant House Washington, which honored Ted Leonsis in 2012 with their highest honor, the Lizzie Award. Covenant House Washington’s vision is three-fold: to protect young people from the streets and from dangerous living situations; to enhance their lives through substantial services and support so that they may transition to adulthood successfully; and to advocate with them and on their behalf, when necessary, so that future generations of children, teenagers and young adults do not face the same crippling challenges as today’s struggling young people face.

DC Central Kitchen and Rebuilding Together Service Projects: Washington Capitals Charities partnered with DC Central Kitchen and Rebuilding Together to provide nearly 100 MSE staff members with the opportunity to participate in service projects during the summer of 2012. In August staff members volunteered at DC Central Kitchen in Washington, D.C., where food is used as a tool to strengthen the community. Through job training, healthy food distribution and local small business partnerships, DC Central Kitchen offers path-breaking solutions to poverty, hunger and poor health. Volunteers from the Caps, Mystics, Wizards and Verizon Center helped...
prepare 5,000 meals that were distributed at little or no cost to 100 nearby homeless shelters, transitional homes and nonprofit organizations.

WATCH VIDEO

On Sept. 11, the National Day of Service, MSE staff members joined forces with local first responders in a service project organized by Rebuilding Together - Arlington/Fairfax County and Falls Church (RT-AFF). The volunteers spent the day cleaning, painting and making repairs at the A-SPAN Emergency Winter Shelter in Arlington, Va. This shelter is open from 4 p.m. to 9 a.m. Nov. 1 through March 31 every year. On days when the temperature remains below freezing, the shelter stays open throughout the day. Case management, mental health and substance abuse services along with meals are available to all shelter guests.

RT-AFF is an affiliate of the national Rebuilding Together, Inc. network. Rebuilding Together is the nation’s leading nonprofit organization working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize neighborhoods. RT-AFF provides low-income homeowners and nonprofits in the community with critically needed home repairs and modifications to create safe and healthy homes. Their mission is to bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners and residents of nonprofit facilities in Arlington, Fairfax County and Falls Church.

We support our players’ charities

Ovi’s Crazy 8s: In six seasons Ovi’s Crazy 8s has provided nearly 2,600 children, soldiers and their families with the opportunity to see a Capitals home game free of charge. Through his decision in 2006 to create this community initiative, Alex Ovechkin generously provides underserved children, recuperating injured soldiers and active military and their families the chance to attend Capitals games at Verizon Center. Ovechkin purchases eight Capitals season tickets and donates them to Most Valuable Kids (MVK). MVK then distributes these tickets to either injured soldiers or active military and their families; or to boys and girls, 18 and younger, through numerous nonprofit organizations that focus on children in low-income and underserved households.

We support our players’ charities

Green’s Gang: After a breakout season in 2007-08 when he led all NHL defensemen in scoring, Mike Green wanted prove he is also a leader off the ice. Following in the steps of teammate and league MVP Alex Ovechkin, Green decided to provide Capitals game tickets to underserved children, injured soldiers and active military and their families in the D.C. area. Green purchases seven Capitals season tickets and donates them to Most Valuable Kids. MVK then distributes these tickets to either soldiers and their families; or boys and girls, 18 and younger, through numerous nonprofit organizations that focus on children in low-income and underserved households.

Green’s Gang sit in the lower level of Verizon Center and are recognized at home games. In addition, each
Backstrom, Green and Laich double the stakes, donating $200 per goal and $100 per assist. At the end of the season Segal also makes a donation. Caps fans and local businesses are also encouraged to participate. To date, So Kids Can has raised more than $200,000 for charity.

 Movember: The Mo (slang for moustache) and November come together each year for Movember, and in 2011 Caps players Troy Brouwer, John Carlson, Jason Chimera, John Erskine, Matt Hendricks, Mike Green, DJ King, Mathieu Perreault, Jeff Schultz and Joel Ward all participated in the initiative. The Capitals team helped raise nearly $12,000 for the Movember Foundation, a nonprofit organization that runs the men’s health initiative, Movember. The money raised during the Movember campaign initially goes to the Movember Foundation and is then split evenly and donated to the foundation’s two beneficiary partners, the Prostate Cancer Foundation and the Lance Armstrong Foundation. The team has helped raise more than $40,000 for Love for Lokomotiv through several fundraisers that took place throughout the course of the 2011-12 season. The Caps Better Halves raised nearly $12,000 by selling red, silicone remembrance bracelets during Caps home games; the Caps hosted an online auction featuring game-worn jerseys that raised more than $26,000; and Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin and Penguins alternate captain Evgeny Malkin each personally donated items to the 2012 Caps Care Casino Night and Auction, which raised an additional $3,400.

 Love for Lokomotiv: In 2011 the Capitals participated in a league-wide fundraising effort headed by NHL players’ wives and girlfriends to help the families of the Lokomotiv Yaroslavl team that were affected by the tragic plane crash that took place on Sept. 7 in Russia. Washington Capitals Charities donated more than $40,000 for Love for Lokomotiv through several fundraisers that took place throughout the course of the 2011-12 season. The Caps Better Halves raised nearly $12,000 by selling red, silicone remembrance bracelets during Caps home games; the Caps hosted an online auction featuring game-worn jerseys that raised more than $26,000; and Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin and Penguins alternate captain Evgeny Malkin each personally donated items to the 2012 Caps Care Casino Night and Auction, which raised an additional $3,400.

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We support NHL initiatives

Hockey Fights Cancer: The Washington Capitals support the NHL’s Hockey Fights Cancer initiative. Hockey Fights Cancer is a component of the NHL’s “Biggest Assist Happens Off the Ice” campaign, the league’s long-standing tradition of addressing important social issues in North America and around the world.

Hockey Fights Cancer is a joint initiative founded in 1998 by the NHL and the Players’ Association to raise money and awareness for national and local organizations involved in cancer care and research. It is supported by NHL member clubs, NHL alumni, the NHL Officials’ Association, professional hockey trainers and equipment managers, corporate marketing partners, broadcast partners and fans throughout North America. To date more than $12 million has been raised to support national and local cancer research institutions, children’s hospitals, player charities and local cancer organizations.

The Caps partnered with Flashes of Hope during the team’s 2011 Hockey Fights Cancer Month initiatives. The Washington Capitals raised nearly $30,000 for Flashes of Hope through its Hockey Fights Cancer Night in October. Before the Caps Hockey Fights Cancer Night game, 12-year-old cancer survivor and Caps fan Anthony Holley participated in a ceremonial puck drop with Caps captain Alex Ovechkin and Red Wings captain Nicklas Lidstrom. Mike Green (Green’s Gang) and Alex Ovechkin (Ovi’s Crazy 8s) donated their seats to Flashes of Hope so pediatric cancer patients treated by Children’s National could attend the game.

Caps players, team personnel, front office staff and broadcast partners actively participated in the initiative. All players’ helmets featured a Hockey Fights Cancer decal throughout the month of October. Coaches and select owners, broadcasters and team personnel wore commemorative Hockey Fights Cancer ties, while Verizon Center in-arena host Guerin Austin wore a Capitals Hockey Fights Cancer jacket and hat during the team’s Hockey Fights Cancer Night game. Forward Jason Chimera was featured in a PSA with Holley that ran during Capitals home games in October and was featured on WashingtonCaps.com. Holley and his mother, Mary Jeter, were interviewed on-air during the first intermission by Comcast SportsNet’s Al Koken.

The goal of Flashes of Hope is to photograph every child with cancer until every child is cured. Flashes of Hope provides free portrait packages to children with cancer and their families. These photographs help children feel better about their changing appearance by celebrating it. For families of terminally ill children, it’s especially important to have a portrait that forever preserves the beauty, grace and dignity of their child.

Hockey is for Everyone: Hockey is for Everyone™ (HIFE) is the National Hockey League’s official youth development program. HIFE provides support and unique programming to nonprofit youth hockey organizations across North America that are committed to offering children of all backgrounds opportunities to play hockey. The initiative is supported by NHL member clubs, players, NHL alumni and fans. The HIFE initiative leverages the sport of hockey as a catalyst to educate children on essential life skills and the core values of hockey: commitment, perseverance and teamwork.

The Hockey is for Everyone initiative embraces three specific disciplines of youth hockey: diverse hockey, special hockey and disabled hockey. The adult hockey component of the initiative exclusively supports two worthy programs, the U.S. National Amputee Hockey Team and the USA Warriors Hockey Team.

To celebrate this initiative, the National Hockey League hosts the annual Hockey is for Everyone Month in February. The league-wide initiative includes numerous activities to promote the diversity of the game and involves NHL clubs, players, alumni, fans and grass-roots diversity programs, all with the goal of raising awareness and celebrating the growth of the game.
The Washington Capitals hosted Hockey is for Everyone Night during a game in February. The evening wrapped up the team’s commemoration of Hockey is for Everyone Month featuring youth players from Fort Dupont’s Kids On Ice program as the Caps Flag Tunnel Kids and the Reston Raiders under-18 girls as the Ice Crew. During the intermission youth players from the Cabin John Ice Rink participated in the Mites on Ice game. Thurgood Marshall Elementary School students and youth from the Fort Dupont Kids On Ice program were able to attend the Caps game courtesy of the team’s Tickets for Kids program, which allows individuals to purchase tickets for children who likely would not otherwise have an opportunity to attend a game.

Prior to the Capitals HIFE Night game the Montgomery Youth Hockey Association held an afternoon match at Verizon Center and members of the Fort Dupont Kids On Ice program participated in the NHL Official’s Association Zebras Care, a program that provides children with an opportunity to attend an NHL game and meet NHLOA members.

The Washington Capitals teamed up for the second-straight year with Dreams for Kids (DFK) to host Extreme Recess Hockey at Kettler Capitals Iceplex. Washington Capitals forwards Jay Beagle and Jason Chimera, defenseman John Erskine and mascot Slapshot skated with children with physical and developmental disabilities following a Capitals practice. Many participants were skating for the first time, and the Caps players helped them get acclimated to the ice while working with them on how to hold the stick, puck handling and passing. The Capitals provided T-shirts for all of the participants and volunteers. Beagle, Chimera and Erskine also signed autographs for all of the attendees during and after the event.

**Caps Care Casino Night and Auction:**
Caps Care Casino Night and Auction is the marquee fundraising event for Washington Capitals Charities. More than 600 fans helped raise nearly $155,000 for charity at the third Caps Care Casino Night and Auction in February at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, Va. In 2011 the event raised more than $100,000 for a total of more than $300,000 raised for charity in three years. A special reception was held for VIP ticket holders who mingled with the entire team along with coaches and owners. Afterward the players entered the gaming area, which featured blackjack, craps, roulette, Texas hold ‘em and slot machines. There were instructional tables along with video game stations in the foyer for everyone to enjoy. The participants were treated to complimentary food and beverage during the event.

In addition two raffles were held, one that required attendees to buy tickets and another that guests could enter with the “money” they won from the casino games. The evening concluded with a live auction featuring one-of-a-kind experiences with Capitals players and coaches.

**Fundraising**
Washington Capitals Charities hosts a number of fundraisers at Caps games and online throughout the season. The Hockey Fights Cancer Jersey Auction, Fall and Spring Puck Surprises, Wives Gift Basket Auction, Pick-A-Stick, Mystery Mini Helmets, Beard-a-thon and online playoff raffle helped raise nearly $175,000 for WCC during the 2011-12 season.
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Local Schools
  • Armstrong Elementary School
  • Barcroft Elementary School
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  • Haycock Elementary School
  • Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School
  • Kemp Mill Elementary School
  • Kent Gardens Elementary School
  • Lake Ridge Middle School
  • Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School
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  • Saint Joseph School
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  • Thurgood Marshall Elementary School
  • Victory Elementary School

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  • Baltimore Youth Hockey
  • Bennett Blazers Sled Hockey
  • Bowie Hockey Club
  • Chesapeake Bay Hockey League
  • Friends of Fort Dupont
  • Montgomery Cheetahs Special Hockey
  • National Rehab/Blaze Sports Sled
  • Nelson Hockey/Metro Maple Leafs
  • NOVA Cool Cats Special Hockey
  • Reston Hockey Club
  • Southern MD Sabres
  • Special Hockey Washington
  • Tri-City Eagles
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Toys for Tots Foundation
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