Mets in the Community

- 700 Turkeys will be distributed on Nov. 15th
- 37,649 books read by students in a book read program
- 7,095 youth impacted by Mets community initiatives
- 885 pints collected from blood drives
- 2,955 lives saved

- 13,300 lbs. of food collected
- 1,000 meals served
- 1,200 gloves and baseballs and 300 bats distributed to youth baseball and softball teams in need
- 849 hours employees spent volunteering
- 30 Latino leaders scholarships awarded to high school students
- 1,115 military and first responders honored at events
As I look back on 2018, I take great pride in our continued commitment to make a positive impact in our community.

We launched seven new initiatives through the Mets and The Mets Foundation. These programs serve children and families going through challenging times, promote healthy eating and exercise, and provide bats, balls, gloves and other badly-needed equipment for boys and girls to play baseball and softball.

Our combined efforts helped our New York community as well as our home away from home in Port St. Lucie, Florida and Boca Chica, Dominican Republic.

Thank you to all our fans, community and corporate partners, players and front-office staff for working together to put smiles on people’s faces.

As we head into 2019, I am excited about the growing impact we can have on our community and our future.

Let’s Go Mets!

Jeff Wilpon
Chief Operating Officer
New York Mets
DEVELOPMENT
Michael Conforto launched Conforto Cares as a way to raise awareness about pediatric cancer and the challenges children, their siblings and families face. Michael invited young girls and boys battling cancer and their families for a fun day at the ballpark, away from the hospital and treatments.

The group received a VIP tour of Citi Field including the Mets Clubhouse. Michael showed them around the weight room, locker room and had the group hit inside the Mets indoor batting cages. The day concluded with lunch where Michael shared stories with the young boys and girls.

At the final Conforto Cares of the season, Michael visited the Cancer Center for Kids at NYU Winthrop on Long Island to spend time with children undergoing treatment. He played video games with them, took photos and signed autographs.

All Conforto Cares kids received a t-shirt, goodie bag, tickets to a Mets game, and the full support of Michael throughout their battle.
One of the keys to a healthy life is exercise, yet almost 20 percent of children ages 6 to 12 are not physically active. Mets on the Move aims to change that by providing a fun way to stay active and healthy.

The Mets partnered with five after-school programs across the city on a health and wellness initiative consisting of an interactive five-week workout curriculum inspired by the Mets. The young girls and boys participate in a series of games and challenges on “Mets Mondays” and were rewarded with Mets-themed prizes.

Mr. Met participated in kick-off rallies at each location with Mets staff stopping by to help lead one of the weekly installments.

More than 500 children participated in the program from Variety Boys & Girls Club in Queens, Child Life Center’s afterschool programs at P.S. 197 and P.S./I.S. 217 in Queens, USAG Boys & Girls Club CYS Services in Brooklyn and Boys & Girls Club of Harlem.
Latino Leaders presented by Wellcare utilizes the appeal of the Mets to motivate, cultivate and empower Latino students to become exemplary leaders in their schools and their communities. The multi-faceted program featured Mets players and coaches Amed Rosario, Ricky Bones and Luis Guillorme working side by side with Latino youth serving meals to the hungry at the Mary Brenan Inn on Long Island. Ricky also joined Gerson Bautista at School in the Square in Washington Heights to talk to students about the challenges they faced and how to become better leaders.

According to one study, 66% of Latino students finish high school and 59% enroll in college. The Mets and Wellcare aim to encourage more Latino students to pursue higher education by offering 30 high school seniors scholarships to earn college credit by participating in the St. John’s College Advantage Program.
The Mets and Wilmer Flores hosted children from youth enrichment programs from New York City for a day at Citi Field through Friends of Flores, sponsored by Konica Minolta.

The Mets partnered with community organizations Cayuga Centers, El Puente, Hispanic Brotherhood, JCCA and NAC to select children from underserved communities for the program.

The young boys and girls enjoyed the batting cages, wiffle ball field and dunk tank at the Good Humor FanFest followed by watching batting practice on the field and meeting Wilmer. The Mets fan favorite spoke to the children about working hard to achieve your dreams, signed autographs and posed for photos.

Each child received a Friends of Flores t-shirt, teddy bear and backpack from Konica before settling into their Field Level seats to cheer on the Mets.
Eat Smart with the Mets kicked off at East Elmhurst Community School and P.S./M.S. 114 in Belle Harbor to encourage healthy eating for young students and provide nutritional knowledge throughout local communities.

Through the Mets Foundation and the American Heart Association, each child participating in the program received a “Color Your Heart” healthy placemat and cookbook as well as nutritional workshops throughout the school year.
The Mets hosted hundreds of boys and girls for baseball clinics with the Junior Mets presented by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Mets players and coaches ran the children through hitting, fielding and pitching stations at Citi Field. The kids received Junior Mets t-shirts as well as tickets to a future game. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the Junior Mets to learn baseball basics from pitchers Robert Gsellman and Seth Lugo and infielder Jeff McNeil. The Mets worked with local youth baseball organizations to select the participants from underserved communities.
MIND & BODY

Professional athletes focus on training their mind as well as their body in their quest to succeed. Members of the Mets medical and training staff spent the afternoon at Citi Field with 15 elite high-school baseball players and their coaches to show them how to bring their game to the next level.

The student athletes were provided with sessions focusing on athletic training, strength and conditioning, mental health and overall nutrition. Dominic Smith also addressed the group and shared their stories from their journeys in becoming professional baseball players.
CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS

In honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Hall-of-Famer Mike Piazza distributed Mets Starlight Brave Gowns to patients at Cohen Children’s Medical Center in Queens.

Brave Gowns replace unattractive, uncomfortable and embarrassing hospital garments with high quality, comfortable team-branded gowns for children to wear in the hospital.

Mike spent time with the boys and girls and their parents, taking photos and signing autographs.
MAKE-A-WISH

The entire Mets organization came together to fulfill a dream for Make-A-Wish Kid Max Miannay — be a New York Met for one day.

Max, who is 12 and battles Cystic Fibrosis, arrived at Citi Field and headed straight for the Press Conference Room, where General Manager Sandy Alderson was waiting to present him with a jersey and a contract! After fielding questions from the audience, Max headed to the clubhouse where he was fitted for a uniform and then met his new teammates inside the locker room.

Max then hit the field for batting and fielding practice, had a pre-game meal, and then stood on the field with the rest of the Mets.

It was a dream come true for one Amazin’ kid!
STATEN ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE

The Mets celebrated members of the Mid-Island Little League team from Staten Island for advancing to the semi-finals of the U.S. bracket in the Little League World Series.

The team, coaches and their families were invited for a day at the ballpark for a true big-league experience.

The boys got to take batting practice on the field and then, when the Mets stepped to the plate, the little leaguers took positions in the outfield and infield for fielding practice. Michael Conforto, Zack Wheeler and the rest of the Mets chatted with the little leaguers about their experiences and congratulated them on their achievement.
VETERAN OF THE GAME

At every home game at Citi Field, the Mets salute the “Veteran of the Game” presented by First Data. A player presents the honoree with an American flag that flew over Citi Field and Citi Vision plays a segment showcasing the soldier’s achievements while serving in the military.
If Steven Matz wasn’t a professional baseball player, he would have pursued his dream to become a firefighter. Steven values first responders. He considers them our true heroes and he wanted to honor their dedication to help others through the Tru32 platform presented by SecureWatch 24.

At five events at Citi Field during the season, Steven honored 32 heroes of the Port Authority Police Department, New York Police Department, Fire Department of New York, and the New York Air National Guard’s 106 Rescue Wing. The groups watched batting practice and then had the opportunity to meet Steven.

During a special Tru32, Steven hosted the family and firefighting colleagues of the late FDNY Lieutenant Christopher Raguso. Chris passed away in a helicopter crash while serving with the 106 Rescue Wing in Iraq. Steven presented Engine 249 Ladder 113 with a framed, team-signed jersey as a tribute to Chris.
HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES

The Mets continued the tradition of visiting a firehouse every year around the anniversary of 9/11 to honor and remember the brave men and women of the FDNY who sacrificed their lives to help others. This year, Steven Matz, Todd Frazier, Brandon Nimmo, Paul Sewald, Corey Oswalt and Drew Gagnon visited Engine 22 Ladder 13 on the Upper East Side. The firehouse lost nine members, known as the “Yorkville 9” on September 11.

In addition, Mets legends John Franco and Todd Zeile joined FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro on a tour of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum. The group visited the museum’s latest exhibit, Comeback Season: Sports After 9/11 which explores how sports and athletes helped to unite the country, consoled a grieving nation and gave us reason to cheer again following the attacks 17 years ago.

The Mets also honored the lives of NYC first responders who died in the line of duty by reaching out to the families of the fallen heroes. Mets Chairman Fred Wilpon hosted all the families the Mets have touched in recent years for a night out at the ballpark in his suite.

In attendance that night from the NYPD, the families of Rafael Ramos, Wenjian Liu, Miosotis Familia, Randolph Holder Jr. and Brian Moore. From the FDNY, were the families of Michael Fahy and Michael Davidson.
WALTER REED

The Mets made their annual trip to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland to say thank you to the men and women of the military and their families.

Mets Chairman Fred Wilpon, Manager Mickey Callaway and the entire team along with Mr. Met hosted a lunch at the USO Center at Walter Reed. The day featured fun and games along with a DJ and face painting for the children. The players posed for photos and signed autographs for the soldiers and listened to their experiences of life in the military.
EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

The Mets are dedicated to giving back to the community. The Employee Engagement program offers Mets staff monthly opportunities to volunteer at a wide variety of organizations. Some of the activities included: employees preparing and packaging nutritious meals to deliver to the homebound at God’s Love We Deliver, caring for dogs and cats at the North Shore Animal League and cooking brunch for families and children staying at the Ronald McDonald House Long Island.
The Mets celebrated Jackie Robinson Day on Sunday, April 15 with a series of events that celebrated Jackie’s legacy and impact on and off the field.

Jackie’s wife, Rachel, and children, Sharon and David, participated in pre-game ceremonies that honored the achievements of the Robinson family. The Jackie Robinson Foundation was founded by Rachel Robinson in 1973 and has provided over $65 million in grants and direct program support to students who have attended over 225 different colleges and universities across the country.

Five of those Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholars took 60 young men and women from Five Towns Community Center and the Wanted Project around the Jackie Robinson Rotunda to learn about the nine values Jackie lived by: Courage, Determination, Teamwork, Persistence, Integrity, Citizenship, Justice, Commitment and Excellence. The group then met with Sharon Robinson and Mets legend Mookie Wilson and heard how Jackie influenced their lives.

The Mets also presented Rachel with a framed mural of Jackie, a replica of a newly installed piece in the Mets tunnel where hundreds of fans, players and media walk by every game.
METSGIVING

KIDS HOLIDAY PARTY
The Mets hosted 125 children from Queens elementary schools for the annual Kids Holiday party at Citi Field. The festivities included lunch, games and holiday performances from each school. Brandon Nimmo donned the Santa suit for the second year in a row. He was joined by Robinson Cano, Edwin Diaz and Corey Oswalt who served as elves and handed out presents to the children. The Mets partnered with P.S. 171, P.S. 112, P.S. 76, P.S. 151, and P.S. 40 to select students for the party.

FOOD DRIVE
Amed Rosario pitched in at the Winter Food Drive presented by Hain Celestial, benefitting the Mary Brennan Inn, a hunger-relief organization based in Hempstead, Long Island. Fans who donated at least 10 non-perishable items received a voucher good for two tickets to a Mets home game in 2018. The drive generated more than 2,300 pounds of food, enough to stock the pantry for three weeks.
COAT DRIVE

The Mets and United Healthcare teamed up to host the “Warm-Up” Holiday Coat Drive benefitting New York Cares. Fans brought more than 1,200 coats to help those in need. Fans who donated received a pair of tickets to a Mets game.

TURKEY GIVEAWAY

The Mets hosted their fifth annual Turkey Giveaway in partnership with Uber in advance of Thanksgiving, distributing 800 turkeys throughout the five boroughs and Long Island to help families in need.

Mets COO Jeff Wilpon, General Manager Brodie Van Wagenen and Manager Mickey Callaway and Mets employees went door to door in Corona and Richmond Hill delivering turkeys and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner for 25 families. Meanwhile, Seth Lugo and his wife, Amanda, gave out turkeys at Agape Food Rescue in Brooklyn.

Mets employees also volunteered to hand out turkeys at various locations throughout the city in partnership with River Fund NY in Queens, New York Common Pantry in East Harlem, Hope Line in the Bronx, Project Hospitality in Staten Island, and Five Towns Community Center, the Mary Brennan Inn and the Hispanic Brotherhood on Long Island.
DRIVES
The Mets held a series of drives throughout the year to help those in need.

The annual winter and summer blood drives at Citi Field attracted donors who generated 885 pints of blood, providing enough to save 2,955 lives. The Mets collected more than 11,000 pounds of food at the Summer Food Drive presented by Hain Celestial. Wives of Mets players and coaches and PIX11 News personalities helped collect food and thanked fans for their generosity.

Fans who donated at the Blood and Food Drives received vouchers for Mets tickets.

METS WIVES
Wives of Mets players and coaches lent a helping hand to various initiatives and events throughout the season. The wives collected food during the Summer Food Drive, read books to young boys and girls at the Pajama Program and played Mets bingo with patients at Mount Sinai Kravis Children’s Hospital.
STERLING WINNERS

The Sterling Award winners, the top minor-league players in the organization, visited and served lunch to the children and families at the Ronald McDonald House New York in Manhattan.

Peter Alonso and Andres Gimenez were among the players who signed autographs, posed for photos and played board games with the children and their family members who are going through a difficult time. They also received a tour of the facility after serving lunch to those staying at the house.

The Ronald McDonald House New York provides temporary housing for pediatric patients and their families in a strong, supportive and caring environment which encourages and nurtures the development of child-to-child and parent-parent support systems.
METS FOUNDATION
The New York Mets Foundation funds and promotes a variety of educational, social and athletic programs and other charitable causes. Founded in 1963, it continues its mission to invest in the future of our community, and to provide assistance to myriad organizations that benefit children and others in need.

A registered 501(c) 3 charity, the Mets Foundation takes no portion of the funds raised to offset internal costs. The New York Mets pay 100% of the Foundation’s overhead to ensure that the entirety of a donation is directed toward helping others (online donations are subject to a third party service fee).

Fred Wilpon, Trustee  
Saul Katz, Trustee  
Jeffrey S. Wilpon, Trustee  
David P. Cohen, Secretary  
Mark Peskin, Treasurer
ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

- Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park
- DREAM Play Learn Grow
- The Y
- New York City Police Foundation
- Queens Museum
- FDNY Foundation
- CAPS Child Abuse Prevention Services
- Inn
- THE CHILD CENTER OF NY
- Cayuga Centers
- Queens Theatre
- Queens Library
- NY Common Pantry
- Pajama Program
- Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City
- The Jackie Robinson Foundation
- St. Francis Food Pantries and Shelters
- abny
YA GOTTA READ

The Mets Foundation and Delta Air Lines teamed up to bring the Ya Gotta Read! program to more than 5,500 students at nine Queens elementary schools. The Mets challenged students to read one book a week for six weeks and the students were rewarded with Mets-themed prizes. In total, the students read more than 37,000 books.

The third grade class at P.S. 13 read a total of 1,508 books and won the top prize - a visit by Brandon Nimmo! The outfielder congratulated the students on their achievement, read the class a book, answered questions and handed out Mr. Met Kids Club prize packs.

The top readers from the nine participating schools were recognized for their achievements on the field at Citi Field before a Mets home game. Miley Quizphi of P.S. 13 read a total of 331 books which was the most of any student in the program.
The Mets Foundation teamed up with Pitch In For Baseball for the inaugural Sandlot Stars equipment donation program. Mets employees volunteered their time to assemble team kits which were distributed to 50 youth baseball and softball teams across all five boroughs. Players and coaches from all 50 teams came to Citi Field to pick up their new Mets Foundation branded equipment. Each team received a team bag, bats, helmets, gloves, catchers gear, and baseballs or softballs.

The Sandlot Stars program meets the goal of the foundation by helping local youth baseball and softball organizations who are working with children from underserved areas.
HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPREE

Zack Wheeler and Jeff McNeil helped make dreams come true at the Mets Foundation Holiday Shopping Spree presented by Delta Air Lines. The pair along with volunteers from Delta took 10 children from an underserved community in Brooklyn on a holiday shopping spree at Target. Each child had $400 to spend on presents for themselves. Following a pizza party and holiday craft making, the players surprised the children with a $400 gift card to give to their guardian to help with the holidays or basic needs of the household.

The boys and girls were all part of El Puente, which offers year-round programming to children from the NYCHA Taylor-Wythe Houses in Williamsburg.
Members of the military, veterans and their spouses attended the Mets Foundation’s Military Transition Summit at Citi Field. The all-day event featured a variety of resources to help them transition into civilian life including: workshops on digital networking, resume building, interview preparation and entrepreneurship.

Medal of Honor recipient Kyle White and Lewis Runnion set the tone explaining how they started successful businesses following careers in the military.

Citi, First Data, Delta Air Lines, Columbia University and Fordham University were among the more than 35 corporations and colleges participating in the career and education networking event where service members could connect in person about potential opportunities.

The day ended with the attendees receiving a VIP tour of field and Mets Clubhouse and a special Mets Challenge Coin as a thank you for their service.
Mets Ownership, Manager Mickey Callaway and his coaches and players joined with fans celebrating the start of the season at the Mets Welcome Home Dinner presented by Alliance Building Services. The event raised almost $800,000 for the Mets Foundation, which funds and promotes a variety of educational, social and athletic programs and other charitable causes.

The Mets honored Joseph J. Esposito, Commissioner of the New York City Emergency Management Department, with the Ya Gotta Believe! award, for dedicating his life to protecting New Yorkers through his more than 40 years of public service. The fundraising dinner also shined a spotlight on Mets Community Partner, River Fund New York, an anti-poverty organization based in Richmond Hill, Queens.

Guests mingled with Mets players and enjoyed cuisine from Mets culinary partners including Josh Capon, Pat LaFrieda, Dave Pasternack, Michael White and Myriad Restaurant Group.

At the conclusion of the fundraising dinner, guests were treated to a “Victory Lap” around on the field and into the newly redesigned Mets Clubhouse.
Baseball is a way of life in the Dominican Republic. Young boys play catch with whatever objects they can fashion into balls and gloves dreaming of a career playing professional baseball.

The Mets recognize the challenge these young men and their families face and wanted to help make a difference in their lives.

Boys and their coaches representing 50 youth baseball teams traveled to the Mets Baseball Academy in the Jubey, Boca Chica to receive free baseball equipment. Each team received an equipment bag containing enough balls, gloves, bats, helmets and catchers equipment for an entire baseball team.

Mets players participating in the Dominican Instructional League helped to give out the equipment and also took the kids on a tour of the academy.

The youth players were invited to stay to enjoy lunch, try out their new equipment and watch a Mets game.

Futuras Estrellas is an extension of the Sandlot Stars program which provides boys and girls with the right tools to play baseball, learn teamwork, build confidence and have fun.
SPRING TRAINING CLINIC FOR CHAMPIONS

The Mets hosted the third annual Spring Clinic for Champions at their Spring Training home in Port St. Lucie, Florida in February. Around 80 Special Olympic athletes and their families participated in the baseball clinic at First Data Field. The athletes got to hit, field, catch and throw with Mets players and including Brandon Nimmo and Steven Matz.

The athletes enjoyed a beautiful day of baseball followed by a barbecue with their favorite ballpark food. Each athlete left with great memories of an unforgettable day!
The NYPD 110 Precinct Community Council honored the Mets as a Community Leader. New York City Councilman Daniel Dromm, 110 precinct Community Affairs Detective Janine Rivera, Community Council President Al Perna, NYC Councilman Francisco Moya and Community Affairs Officer David Saponieri presented Mets Executive Director Danielle Parillo with the award.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and Mets COO Jeff Wilpon announce the team’s commitment for its Triple A team, the Syracuse Mets, to play in Syracuse for at least 25 years.
New York City Councilman Peter Koo honored the boys and girls from Flushing elementary schools who were picked as winners of the Readers Are Leaders program.

The Mets honored fallen FDNY Firefighter Michael Davidson by presenting a team-signed jersey to his family and firehouse, Engine 69 in Harlem. Mets COO Jeff Wilpon led the Mets contingent which included pitchers Steven Matz, Seth Lugo and Robert Gsellman. Davidson’s wife, Eileen, and his four children, along with FDNY Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro accepted on behalf of the family and firehouse.
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