

SPRING 2026

# SHOES NEWS



Dear Friends,

Children across the country are stepping into their classrooms with confidence, dignity, and hope thanks to you. Your generosity makes it possible for Shoes That Fit to remove one of the most visible signs of poverty by giving children something so simple yet powerful, and at times life-changing: new, name-brand athletic shoes. Thank you for continuing to believe in the potential of every child we serve, allowing them to step forward boldly into their futures.

And that is our theme this year: *Forward!*

In a time when much of the world feels uncertain and many are choosing to "wait and see," we know that children cannot afford to wait. The need is immediate and urgent. Last year, Shoes That Fit served more than **218,000** children in all 50 states. But requests for help from schools exceeded **400,000** kids. That gap represents children who are still waiting for the simple gift of new shoes, which is why this year we are choosing to move *Forward*.

*Forward* means action. It means pushing ahead to meet the need, even when the path isn't easy. It means helping kids step confidently into the classroom, move actively on the playground, and press on toward a brighter future. It means continuing to change the trajectory of a child's life, one pair of shoes at a time. With your partnership, we won't stand still. Together, we will do whatever it takes to help children move *Forward*. Thank you for walking with us.

Amy Fass  
CEO and Executive Director



# FORWARD

## MOVING KIDS FORWARD—ONE ALL-STAR STEP AT A TIME

As the city of Los Angeles geared up for NBA All-Star Weekend, Shoes That Fit was focused on something even bigger than basketball: helping children move Forward. In the week leading up to the festivities, Shoes That Fit and its partners provided more than **950** students in Inglewood and Compton with new, name-brand athletic shoes. But this wasn't just about footwear. It was about confidence. Belonging. Opportunity. It was about removing barriers so kids can step boldly into their future.

### FORWARD IN INGLEWOOD

At Woodworth-Monroe Academy in Inglewood, **650** students received new shoes thanks to a powerful partnership with Philadelphia Insurance Companies (PHLY), former Los Angeles Laker Derek Fisher's Be Better Foundation, and the Los Angeles Sparks. From the moment students walked into the gym, the energy was electric. High-fives from Derek Fisher. Deafening cheers when Sparky (the LA Sparks mascot) burst through the doors. Laughter, celebration, and wide-eyed disbelief as students carried out their new shoes.

One administrator shared words that perfectly captured the impact: *"Events like this level the playing field for kids. Everyone is the same; they are all wearing new shoes, so no one is above the other. Egos are checked at the door."*

That's what Forward looks like. When insecurity is replaced with confidence. When every child starts on equal footing. When barriers fall away and kids can focus on learning, growing, and dreaming bigger.



## MOVING KIDS FORWARD—ONE ALL-STAR STEP AT A TIME CONT.

### FORWARD IN COMPTON

The momentum continued in Compton at Bunche Middle School, a California Distinguished School, where Shoes That Fit partnered with Rack Room Shoes and the Chris Paul Family Foundation. Through Rack Room's partnership with Jordan Brand, students received a new line of Jordan sneakers. And while middle schoolers don't always show their excitement freely, their enthusiastic smiles told the story.

Chris Paul encouraged students to keep chasing their dreams, reminding them that where they start does not determine where they finish. Community leaders, including Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Compton Mayor Emma Sharif, were in attendance, alongside Chris Paul's parents, Shoes That Fit board member and Jordan Brand General Manager (North America) Jeremy Bolds, Jordan Brand team members, and the Rack Room Shoes Brand Communications Team—all showing students that their futures matter.

Rack Room Shoes, a dedicated partner for 18 years, deepened its impact by presenting both Shoes That Fit and the Chris Paul Family Foundation with \$25,000 grants to advance the mission of each organization.

### WHY FORWARD MATTERS

These All-Star moments are about more than celebration; they are about momentum. Each pair of new shoes represents a step forward for a child who might otherwise feel overlooked or held back. When students are equipped with something as simple, yet essential, as new athletic shoes, they gain more than comfort. They gain confidence. They gain dignity. They gain the freedom to fully participate in the classroom, on the playground, and in their communities.

A pair of shoes reminds kids that they are supported, valued, and capable of more than they may realize. And when a child begins to believe that, everything starts to shift. Because when a child feels like an all-star today, they're more prepared to become one tomorrow.



## 1 YEAR FORWARD—CELEBRATING OUR NEW SHOE BANK

Thanks to your generous support, Shoes That Fit opened the doors to its 16,000-square-foot warehouse one year ago, and the impact has been transformational. For Logistics Manager Omar Ruvalcaba, who joined the team just before the ribbon cutting, the year has focused on bringing order, efficiency, and growth to the new space.

With our much smaller warehouse in Claremont, inventory was held in multiple 3PL locations with little structure. *"Inventory was anywhere and everywhere,"* Omar recalls.

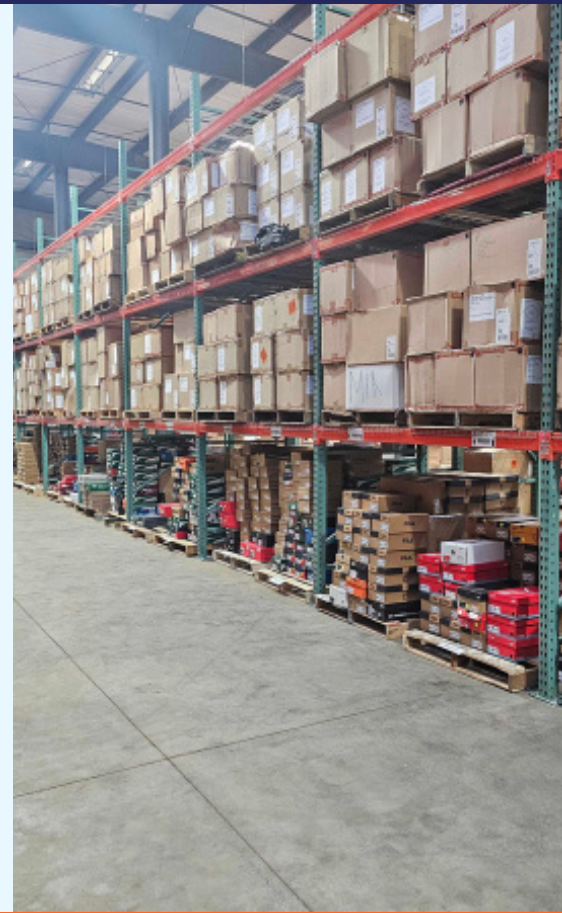
Since then, the team has implemented systems that track products from arrival to distribution and are directly linked to our reporting systems.

*"We've implemented an organized inventory process providing visibility on all our inventory as it comes in, gets put away, and is sent out to kids all across the country."*

The expanded space now allows the team to receive donations, process orders, and ship simultaneously. *"We're able to accommodate more inventory on hand, allowing us to take on more orders and ship them in a timely manner,"* Omar explains.

Looking ahead, increased racking will expand pallet capacity and support continued growth. As Omar shares, *"Efficiently using warehouse space is key to adapting to growth."* One year in, the warehouse is more than a bigger building; it's a stronger engine for delivering new shoes to children nationwide. Interested in touring or volunteering?

Email: [development@shoesthatfit.org](mailto:development@shoesthatfit.org).



## LYNN MASON IS APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Shoes That Fit is proud to welcome Lynn Mason as our new Board Chair. A seasoned healthcare executive with nearly two decades of leadership across multi-state organizations, Lynn currently serves as CEO for North America at IVIRMA, the world's largest integrated fertility network. Known for driving growth, innovation, and meaningful impact, she brings deep expertise in guiding complex organizations while keeping people at the center. Lynn has been a dedicated supporter of Shoes That Fit for more than 10 years, championing our mission with passion and purpose. Her heart for serving children and families, especially those facing disadvantages, makes her an inspiring leader for this next chapter in Shoes That Fit's growth journey.



### • What personal experiences have shaped your passion for serving children in need?

*I distinctly remember in the 4th grade my parents telling my sister and me that they could not afford new shoes for us in the winter. We had to wear our sandals from the summer with two pairs of socks. We were cold, bullied, and unable to fully participate in physical activities. My sister and I, along with many kids at our school, would have benefitted so greatly from the gift STF provides. It is an even bigger gift to me to be able to pay it forward as an STF board member and donor.*

### • Why do you believe something as simple as a new pair of shoes can make such a meaningful impact?

*Clearly children need proper-fitting shoes for their foot health, safety, and participation in athletic activities. But shoes represent much more than we may realize. A new pair of shoes can help a child with confidence. They can assert themselves in academics and sports without the worry of pain, stigma, or shame. A new pair of shoes can highlight a child's personality and bring joy. Each child deserves something, just for themselves, that provides comfort and a little stability in what may be a challenging daily life.*

### • What excites you most about stepping into the role of Board Chair?

*I have some big shoes to fill as Board Chair for Shoes That Fit! I've had the pleasure of working with some great chairs in the past. My goal is to be of service to the Board, Amy, and the entire management team to empower each of us to do what we do best and to bring our greatest thinking and abilities to the goal of reaching as many kids as we can.*

# STRATTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## STRATTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – A CULTURE OF CARING FROM HEAD TO TOE

Spring 2026 marks five incredible years of partnership with the Stratton Community Foundation. In 2021, the foundation teamed up with Shoes That Fit to serve children in need within their community by working to remove barriers that prevent children from being healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

Serving southern Vermont, the foundation supports more than **3,500** children. In some communities, up to **90%** of children live at or below the poverty level.

Founded in 1996, the foundation has evolved into a strategic leader focused on partnerships and solutions that help children succeed in school and achieve economic independence. The Foundation focuses on four core pillars: health, hunger, basic necessities, and education.

*"Through our Head-to-Toe Program, we provide essentials, from spring sneakers to winter boots, so children can fully experience Vermont. This year, facing our second-highest sneaker demand, we're distributing 481 pairs across 20 towns, made possible by our partnership with Shoes That Fit. With 66% of local children from low-income homes (some schools report that 95% of their children are on the free/reduced meal plan), families often must prioritize rent or food over new shoes. Many students arrive in worn or torn footwear, and for some, these sneakers are the first new pair they've ever owned."* – Meredith Morin, Executive Director

**One of the most beautiful parts of community is when moments like this come full circle:**

*"I grew up in the Stratton area and graduated from Burr and Burton Academy, so this community has always been home. After more than 25 years working at Stratton Resort, I've developed a deep appreciation for the people, partnerships, and shared commitment that make this region such a special place to live and work. I've followed the work of the Stratton Community Foundation since its founding in 1996. Joining the Foundation in 2023 felt like a natural alignment of my roots, values, and desire to give back."* –Katie Cyr, Event and Program Manager

Community unity and grassroots partnerships help Shoes That Fit reach more children annually. Seeing a need and working together to fill it is how we can continue to make a *forward* impact across the USA.

Links: <https://strattonfoundation.org/head-to-toe>



To see kids moving *Forward* throughout the year,  
Follow us on social media!

📷 @ShoesThatFitCharity    🌐 @Shoes-That-Fit  
📘 @ShoesThatFitNonProfit    📺 @ShoesThatFit  
🎵 @Shoesthatfitcharity

Shoes That Fit - EIN: 95-4425565