



FOR MORE INFORMATION

about Shadow Buddies, including how to get involved, visit Shadowbuddies.org.

kids, where they get a blank cape and draw their own super hero power or symbol that gives them strength, courage, and hope. The organization also hosts a holiday toy drive and throws Pink Parties, providing a day of beauty to girls and their moms and sisters, and Superhero Parties, bringing in superhero action figures and doing crafts. Additionally, Shadow Buddies funds 1,000 backpacks for kids going to specialty health camps each year.

To help advance its mission over the years, Shadow Buddies has partnered with athletes around the country, starting with Kansas City Chiefs legend Tony Gonzalez, who has worked with the organization for more than two decades.

Gonzalez's mother was a nursing home and hospital administrator. Other partners include Oklahoma City Thunder star Paul George, whose mother had a stroke when he was a child – he'd never been on an ambulance, "so his goal is to help reduce anxiety and fear when kids are in an ambulance," Marty says. Cleveland Browns cornerback T.J. Carrie was diagnosed with a heart defect at the age of 15 and now distributes buddies to children suffering from heart disease.

"The players that we do partner with, they have a real purpose and a real reason behind that buddy that they've adopted or that they want to sponsor to help other families, and that's been a big bonus and a big plus for us," Marty explains.

After nearly a quarter of a century leading Shadow Buddies, Marty says she's still driven by wanting to learn how to better serve children and their families. Miles now joins her in that mission as the organization's program director.

"We've definitely provided a lot of hope and joy and love for thousands of kids across the United States and worldwide," Marty says. "It's just been an honor that Miles has been able to see part of this grow as he becomes older and share the experience of being able to help other kids."



Kelsey Cipolla is a local writer, editor, and social media specialist. Kelsey has covered everything from the Kansas City culinary scene to home design, health, fitness trends, hidden gems, and nonprofit in the Kansas City community.