



2023 TFK Testimonials

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh Region)

This youth and family have been going through a lot over the last few years. The youth has two other siblings. She was excited to attend the Children's Museum because she had never gone before, and she was excited to do something by herself. The youth does not get a lot of one-on-one time with anyone. When we arrived, she saw how big the museum was and all the activities there were to do. She was amazed. The youth really enjoyed herself at the museum. She enjoyed all the hands-on activities. She got to do some arts and crafts and got to paint a picture. The youth was excited to take it home to her grandmother. The youth also liked the climber in the middle of the museum that went all the way to the ceiling. She played on that for a good while. She went up and down the climber and had a big smile on her face doing it. The youth explored the whole museum and was tired by the time it was time to leave the museum. She was excited to tell her siblings and grandmother all about the museum and the activities she got to do. She stated that she hoped that she would be able to attend another event soon because she had a lot of fun. Thank you for the tickets! It was a great day.

Twins Game (Twin Cities Region)

On July 21, 2023, Michael, the boys, and myself went to the Twin Cities. This is the first time for the boys in a big city! It was so much fun to watch them experience a big city through their eyes. They had never seen so many buildings, cars, or people. They also had never been to a baseball game, so that was a teaching experience in itself. We were able to teach them the rules of the game. Considering their age and not knowing the game well they did get a bit bored, but overall absolutely loved their time there, they enjoyed Target Field, and the glove by the gates. There were also some home runs and so there were fireworks for those which made them have huge smiles. I think one of my favorite parts was that neither of the boys had been on escalators before and to get to our seats we had to ride a few. The first couple of times, the boys (especially the younger one) were a bit frightened. But by the end of the night, they loved it and wanted to keep using them!

ARTECHOUSE NYC (New York Metro Region)

Artechouse in New York is an awe-inspiring place where children can explore the fusion of art and technology. I witnessed how it impacted young visitors, like shy Tahlia who explored the solar system and had so many questions about the world around her. For underprivileged kids, it opened doors to new passions.



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Cirque de la Symphonie at the Kennedy Center (Washington DC Metro Region)

Wow -- the Kennedy Center is a beautiful place. What I liked most was watching the guys take it all in. This was their first theater experience and they didn't know what to expect -- I didn't either. It was a perfect day. We walked the terrace and took photos in the great hall. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Everyone got dressed up and truly enjoyed the experience. Not only was it a first for the youth to see Cirque de la Symphonie but also seeing a live symphony. Many who attended had never visited the Kennedy Center which was an experience in itself. Everyone truly had a great time.

Phipps Conservatory (Pittsburgh Region)

We have a family where the child had lost her father, and they are just having a rough time getting the child to be motivated to do anything. I have struggled for a few weeks to get the child to open up and trust I will not leave all of a sudden. After taking her to the Phipps Conservatory, she realized that there is a whole world out there. Being able to be the person to watch life come back into a child's eyes is a great and absolutely amazing experience. I now have the kid calling me asking "When are we going again?" She absolutely loved and treasured it, and so did the family, hearing how great their child's experience was. This child and family have been through a lot of struggles in the past year, and I want to personally thank TFK for giving this child an opportunity they may never have gotten. Stories and experiences like this are why I work in this program, and I seriously can not thank TFK enough for the amazing and wonderful opportunities they give our families.

Sphinx Virtuosi at the Ordway (Twin Cities Region)

The Sphinx Virtuosi performance at the Ordway was extremely valuable to our students at IAA. Our students would not normally have the opportunity to go to the Ordway and see a performance if it wasn't for this opportunity through school. This performance was very impactful on the group we brought and many of them said this was the first time they had ever been in a performing arts theater. They were able to see very talented artists of color who look like them and are doing amazing things. The arts are beneficial in so many ways and it was a great experience for our students to see professional musicians performing. We are very grateful for the opportunity to take our students to this performance.



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Yankees Game (New York Metro Region)

In school last year we tried to learn about caring for the environment. It was amazing to see how such a huge organization as the Yankees was also caring for the environment. The Yankees have an herb /plant garden by gate 2. We were able to see how the plants were being kept warm with heating lamps. We also saw how the stadium recycles with all of the different recycling bins set up around the stadium. This helped this special education student see the impact that one can have on the environment.

International Spy Museum (Washington DC Metro Region)

One of the boys wants to be a policeman when he grows up and loves the theme of the museum and the James Bond car. The other boy has only been living in the US for a little over a year. When his mother gave permission for the visit to the museum, he literally jumped for joy he was so excited, which was indescribably touching for the social worker to see. Both boys enjoyed the museum very much – they had fun and learned a lot too, thank you for gifting them this special experience!

Carnegie Science Center (Pittsburgh Region)

Our classrooms at Sunrise School had a wonderful time on our trip to the Carnegie Science Center. Students especially loved all the activities at Sports Works. We have been studying force and motion in science and the Sports Works exhibits enhanced their knowledge of those concepts. One student asked if she could stay there forever! Thank you to Tickets for Kids for providing my students with such a fun, educational experience. Our students all said that they hope to go back to the Science Center again one day.

Paramore Concert at Xcel Energy Center (Twin Cities Region)

It was everyone's first time at the Xcel Center and at a live concert performance, and no one knew what to expect from the experience. And by the end of the night, it was the best experience they had in a very long time. Here are some quotes from the family members and clients:

"My 10-year-old son could not stop dancing and moving. He was glued to his seat watching, and dancing to the entire performance. He likes to move around a lot, to the point that he can't sit still. And that can be tiring for me as a mom. But, going to this event was like giving him permission to dance away, to move his body to the music as



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much as he wanted to, and to be okay that he is expressing himself. It was the best night of his life! He even said to me, “Mom, I’m dancing and is this okay?” And, I told him, “of course! You’re at a concert and you are supposed to dance.” I feel like now I need to give him more space to express himself at home and be more okay for him to just be himself. I didn’t know this about him until the event. Thank you for helping me see a different side to my son.”

“My daughter is very quiet and shy. She wasn’t always so quiet when she was younger - she used to express herself a lot. Now that she’s a teenager, she is shyer and does not want to share a lot with her dad and me. But on this night, I could tell that the music started to bring her out of her shell. It was like she was the little toddler who was so happy and danced all the time. I have not seen her this way for too long. She tapped, clapped, and even though still reserved, I knew she really had a great time. It was a great moment for me as a mom to see my daughter with this much joy. Thank you to the donor who gave us these tickets. My family appreciates you!

“When I found out that the Linda Lindas were the opening act, I could not believe it, and I went to my daughter and said, ‘you won’t believe that we are going to see the Linda Lindas tonight!’ This is my daughter and my favorite song, “Oh!” We rock out to it all the time, sometimes too loud that my wife has to yell at us to turn down the music! It’s a special band that connects me and my daughter together, and now she can say she knows they are real and she saw them for the first time. Thank you to whoever donated the tickets. This was such a special night for me and my daughter that I will always remember. And I will always remind her of this special night. Thank you!”

Aladdin on Broadway (New York Metro Region)

Albina had a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The look on her face when she saw the theater and saw that we had such elite seats set her up for an exciting show and a life-changing experience. Thank you.

Washington Nationals (Washington DC Metro Region)

This was a wonderful experience for our students! Several had never gone to a major league game before. We used the tickets as a reward for students who participated in college visits and who worked hard to earn a 3.0 or above with a unique and fun experience. Thank you!



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Robert Morris University Island Sports Center Mini Golf (Pittsburgh Region)

Paige chose this event because it was a good chance to get Xavi outdoors in a safe and controlled environment. Xavi and Paige had a great time together and found themselves having fun with each other, which Paige reports is rare. Xavi learned about the sport of golf; Paige used this event as an “unschooling” opportunity by explaining the basic concepts of physics in relation to golf (velocity, motion, friction, etc.). Xavi and Paige hope to attend this event again when the weather permits.

Minnesota Vikings (Twin Cities Region)

These tickets arrived at truly the perfect time. 2 of our young men at our school were able to move down the tiers in our tiered behavior system and we were talking about how we could celebrate that step in the right direction. In talking to those students, we realized that they were big Vikings fans and had never been to a game. The very next day, these tickets became available and it was like it was meant to be. Our school's social worker and the assigned mentor for these kids were able to clear his schedule and go with them on Sunday. The students had a fantastic time in these great seats, and I am so happy we were able to do something so amazing for them to show how proud we are of their progress!

SeaQuest (New York Metro Market)

Thank you for the opportunity for our youth to visit SeaQuest! It was an excellent way for them to learn about marine life in a way that's fun, engaging, and educational! One of our boys had never expressed an interest in anything like this before... but after the trip, he could not stop talking about how much he would love to work with otters. Thanks to you, our youth have been given insight and inspiration into something that could guide them to new career opportunities in the future!

ARTECHOUSE DC (Washington DC Metro Region)

This was an amazing outing for our students. It is a really good sign when the students don't want to leave and ask if they can come back again! Because of our program's emphasis on STEM education, "Beyond the Light" proved very informative and in complete alignment with our learning goals.



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Pittsburgh Pirates (Pittsburgh Region)

The Udyawar family attended this Pirate game Friday night with their 3-year-old daughter Bahaar. Bahaar is still adjusting to life in America and in the Udyawar family. The Udyawars are doing all they can to provide Bahaar with new experiences and to create memories as a family to strengthen their bond. This Pirate game provided a time for the Udyawars to have quality time as well as expose Bahaar to a new experience. The family reported that Bahaar loved the game and expressed her excitement throughout it.

Minneapolis Institute of Art (Twin Cities Region)

Taking students to the art museum was an incredibly beneficial experience for several reasons. Firstly, it provided a unique opportunity for students to engage with various forms of art firsthand. By observing and analyzing different artistic styles, techniques, and mediums, students were able to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of artistic expression. Secondly, the art museum visit fostered critical thinking and creativity among the students. Encountering diverse artworks challenged their perspectives and encouraged them to think critically about the meaning, symbolism, and social context behind each piece. This stimulated their imaginations and opened new avenues for self-expression.

New York Mets (New York Metro Market)

The family had an amazing time. While being in treatment for over 6 years for cancer, the family does their best to keep their spirits up. Unfortunately, with lots of medical bills, fun events are not always possible. This opportunity gave the family a chance to have a stress-free day together, which was much needed.

Mrs. Doubtfire at the National Theater (Washington DC Metro Region)

The kids, mom, and I enjoyed every bit of it! You should have heard the debrief - they each had such vivid recollections of their favorite parts, the funniest parts, and favorite actors. It was so cute! They got up this morning like soldiers and off to school we go! Thank you – this is something we could never even dream of doing on our own for them!!!