



# SUGAR4SMILES

## How We Use Your Support

*Annual Impact & Financial Stewardship Report | FY 2024–2025*

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### Section 1: Who We Are & What We Do

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Sugar4Smiles is a youth-led nonprofit founded in Houston, Texas in 2023 on a simple but powerful belief: every child deserves to feel celebrated. We distribute non-perishable birthday kits to children in low-income communities through food pantry networks, ensuring that financial hardship never stands between a child and the joy of their birthday.

Our signature innovation — a Sprite-based cake substitute — eliminates the need for refrigeration, making our kits shelf-stable, scalable, and accessible to food pantries without cold storage. Each kit contains cake mix, candles, decorations, and celebration essentials.

Beyond birthday kits, we have expanded our mission into daily nutrition through the Sugar4Smiles Budget-Friendly Cookbook — 40 high-protein, culturally diverse recipes designed for families experiencing food insecurity.

#### FY 2024–2025 At a Glance

**\$30K+**

Total Funds Raised

**5**

Active Chapters

**1,000+**

Cookbook Copies Distributed

**\$20K**

Grant from HCC

**1**

Global Youth Award

**3**

Intl. Pilot Markets

## Section 2: Fund Allocation

Every dollar donated to Sugar4Smiles is deployed with intention. Below is a breakdown of how funds raised this fiscal year were allocated across our programs and operations.

| Category                           | Allocation | Est. Amount |
|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Birthday Kit Production & Supplies | 70%        | ~\$21,000   |
| Cookbook Production & Distribution | 30%        | ~\$9,000    |

## Section 3: Kits Distributed

Since our founding, Sugar4Smiles has distributed birthday kits to children across Houston and beyond. Our distribution model leverages existing food pantry infrastructure, reducing last-mile costs and maximizing reach.

|                                  |                      |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 6,000+<br>Total Kits Distributed | ~\$5<br>Cost Per Kit | 5<br>Distribution Chapters |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|

### Distribution by Chapter

| Chapter / Location | Status | Kits Distributed |
|--------------------|--------|------------------|
| Houston, TX (HQ)   | Active | 4,750            |
| Dallas, TX         | Active | 200              |
| Austin, TX         | Active | 50               |
| New Jersey         | Active | 950              |
| Nashville, TN      | Active | 50               |

## Section 4: Cookbook Initiative

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The Sugar4Smiles Budget-Friendly Cookbook is a 40-recipe resource designed to extend our mission from birthday celebrations into everyday nutrition. Each recipe is high-protein, culturally diverse, and optimized for tight grocery budgets — meeting families where they are.

**40**

Recipes Included

**1,000+**

Copies Distributed

**~\$10**

Cost Per Copy

### Distribution Partners

- Houston food pantry network
- Houston Children's Charity
- Bethel's Heavenly Hands
- Community events and chapter distributions

A companion public health impact brief, co-authored with Dr. Ruiz at Texas Children's Hospital and drawing on data from Rice University's Kinder Institute, Feeding America, and peer-reviewed journals, is currently in development to document the cookbook's nutritional impact.

## Section 5: Chapter Growth

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Sugar4Smiles has grown from a single Houston-based initiative to a five-chapter network. Each chapter is led by youth volunteers and operates through local food pantry partnerships.

**5**

Active Chapters

**3**

States Reached

**3**

Intl. Pilot Markets

### Domestic Expansion

Our chapter model is designed for replicability. Any youth leader can establish a chapter through our onboarding program, which provides kit templates, distribution playbooks, and fundraising guidance. This year we expanded to five chapters across three states — Texas, New Jersey, and Tennessee.

## **International Expansion**

Sugar4Smiles is actively planning pilot programs in Brazil, Argentina, and South Africa — markets selected for their youth populations, NGO infrastructure, and food insecurity rates. Our strategy involves:

- Partnering with local NGOs and food banks
- Adapting kits to culturally relevant ingredients and celebrations
- Building relationships with regional chapter leaders
- Translating the cookbook into Portuguese and Spanish

## Section 6: Grants & Partnerships

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### Houston Children's Charity — \$20,000 Grant

The single largest grant in Sugar4Smiles history was awarded by Houston Children's Charity (HCC), whose Partnership Coordinator Genesis Bautista has been a key institutional supporter. This grant funded:

- Large-scale birthday kit production and procurement
- Cookbook printing and initial distribution
- Chapter expansion logistics and training
- Community outreach events across the Houston metro

### Other Funding Sources

Beyond the HCC grant, Sugar4Smiles has raised funds through:

- Individual donors and community supporters
- Youth fundraising events organized by chapter leaders
- Contest awards and recognition grants

### Key Institutional Partners

|                                                                            |                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Houston Children's Charity</b><br>Primary funder & distribution partner | <b>Bethel's Heavenly Hands</b><br>Houston community distribution partner |
| <b>Texas Children's Hospital</b><br>Clinical co-author on impact brief     | <b>Food Pantry Network</b><br>Primary distribution infrastructure        |

## Section 7: Looking Ahead

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Your continued support powers every kit we build, every cookbook we distribute, and every child who gets to blow out candles on their birthday. Here is how additional donations will fuel our next chapter.

### Next Year's Goals

- Expand to 10 total chapters nationally
- Distribute 10,000+ birthday kits across all chapters
- Launch pilot distributions in Brazil, Argentina, and South Africa
- Finalize and publish the public health impact brief with Texas Children's Hospital

- Translate the cookbook into Portuguese and Spanish for international pilot markets
- Secure university research partnerships to study kit and cookbook impact
- Apply for and secure additional grants totaling \$30,000

#### How Additional Donations Will Be Deployed

| Category                                        | Allocation | Est. Amount |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Birthday Kit Production (scale to 10,000+ kits) | 70%        | ~\$21,000   |
| Cookbook Production & Distribution              | 30%        | ~\$9,000    |

***Every dollar. Every kit. Every smile.***

sugar4smiles.org