

Good Works

Kind siblings invent charity that fills stadium seats with kids



Chris (yellow shirt) and Catherine Jones (blue shirt) arrange for kids to enjoy live pro sports games through their charity, Kind to Kids

Samantha Byles, Special to the Business Journal

In late March, siblings Christopher and Catherine Jones took 20 children from one Philadelphia and two Delaware state branches of the YMCA to the Philadelphia 76ers-Milwaukee Bucks game at the Wells Fargo Center. For many of the kids, it was their first time attending a game.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to watch the kids take in the whole experience," said [Caroline Jones](#), executive director of Kind to Kids. She's the mother of Christopher and Catherine, college-aged siblings, and Kind to Kids is the nonprofit they created to provide children in need with experiences that would normally be out of their reach.

Based in Wilmington, Del., Kind to Kids offers underprivileged children and children within the Delaware foster care system with opportunities to attend sporting and cultural events. The program also offers educational training and social support through a number of programs held at community and youth centers.

Christopher and Catherine were inspired to create Kind to Kids after attending an empty Delaware baseball game with their parents.

"We were really just surprised at how empty it was, and we thought about all the kids that we've helped doing other community service events or that our mom works with," said Catherine, a sophomore at St. Joseph's University. "We knew that these seats did not have to be empty."

Caroline, who worked with foster children as a court-appointed special advocate in the Delaware family court system, had always shared stories of her work with Catherine and Christopher about children in need, neglected, or abused.

"It was like a lightbulb went off, and my sister and I, we went to our mom afterwards and asked her 'how can we make something out of this,'" said Christopher, a senior at Villanova University.