

CHARITIBUNDI BOWL

INTRO

Good day to you, classically beautiful and boundlessly generous readers of the Shutdown Fullcast, Vacation Bible School, Split Zone Duo, and other fine programs of the EDSBS Extended Universe. (Think it's weird that this all has to be named after Spencer? First of all, he started it. Second of all, it makes him wildly uncomfortable, so that's a win for the rest of us.)

The 2024 Charity Bowl (styled as #CharitibundiBowl) is upon us. Here's everything you need to know:

The Bowl is an annual fundraising contest staged by the EDSBS Extended Universe in aid of New American Pathways ([@newampaths](#)), a full-service refugee resettlement nonprofit based in Atlanta. We've been putting on this celebration for well over a decade at this point, a number we were very happy to hit because in true EDSBS fashion, nobody can quite remember what year we did the first one.

Why New AP?

Many jobs and several mergers ago, a young [@edsbs](#) worked at one of their predecessor orgs. You can read more about that time, and what still moves us to work with these communities today, [over at Channel 6](#).

THE RULES

The 2024 EDSBS Charity Bowl will kick off (football term) on Monday morning, April 15, via announcement on the [New American Pathways Twitter feed](#). The game officially concludes on Friday evening, April 19, though we have been known to extend the contest into the weekend in pursuit of stretch goals.

The New AP Twitter feed will have the most up-to-date information regarding official stop/start times, and will also serve as your first point of contact for any issues during bowl week. Spencer and Holly will be camped there all week to field questions and celebrate especially creative donations.

The splash page (linked down below in the FAQ, for reasons) is your home for everything else: A portal to submit your actual donations, a running (unofficial!) tally of all the money we've raised so far, and links where you can learn more about New AP and their work.

HOW TO PLAY

Once the launch has been announced, hit the splash page and navigate to the dropdown menu. You will see a long list of schools with football teams. Select the team you want to compete under, and type in your donation amount. By tradition, donations are typically made in the form of a football score or statistic that has sentimental value to the donor. \$70.33, for example, in memory of West Virginia's infamous Orange Bowl romp over Clemson, or \$26.28, to honor Barry Sanders' world-beating single-season rushing record. At the end of the week, the school with the highest donation total will be declared the winner.

You'll also have the option to make this one-time gift a quarterly or monthly recurring donation, which will earn a year's worth of multiplier points for our scoring purposes. Example: You're donating \$100 on behalf of Vanderbilt (it's imaginary!). If you make that donation a \$100 quarterly pledge instead, Vanderbilt will be awarded a full year's worth of donations to their team score in advance, in this case \$400. A \$100 monthly pledge will add \$1,200 to the team score.

(Note that recurring gifts, as well as corporate matching gifts, are not going to show up on the splash page running total, since we have to enter them manually.)

Now comes the good part: TIME TO BRAG ABOUT YOUR GENEROSITY ONLINE. Post your donation receipt (don't forget to redact any identifying info)! Tag Spencer. Tag Holly. Tag New AP. Tag your school and your school's famous alumni. Cheerfully bullying your friends and rivals into joining the game themselves is how we keep this operation growing.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is the link to donate?

Right here at the [splash page](#). It's buried down here for a reason: IF YOU WANT YOUR DONATION TO COUNT TOWARDS THE 2024 CHARITY BOWL, DO NOT DONATE EARLY. New AP gratefully accepts donations year-round, but if you click before we launch this year's tally, your donation will be recorded in last year's database, and will not be counted towards this year's score.

Can we donate more than once?

You're welcome to do so! ONCE IT'S TIME.

How do I donate via mobile?

Text charitybowl24 to 91999, **AFTER THE BOWL LAUNCHES ON MONDAY MORNING.**

I did it anyway. Can you go get it and add it to this year's board?

No. We're very busy! Thank you for your money.

What on God's green internet is the #CharitibundiBowl?

The official contest hashtag. We've been doing this a while, and the notion of "charity" has evolved in that time. So a few years back, we co-opted this [fabulous, short-lived Boca Raton Bowl name](#) for our own purposes.

New Awhatican What Now?

[Here](#) is New American Pathways. They support refugee families resettled in America from the day they touch down at the airport until the day they take their citizenship exams. This can encompass a huge range of needs, from finding safe housing, getting children enrolled in school and adults in job training, to language classes, legal aid, and after-school programs. Checkout their social platforms throughout the week to learn more about New AP and how their work shapes communities in and around Atlanta:

www.facebook.com/NewAmericanPathways

www.instagram.com/newamericanpathways

What's a refugee?

A refugee has been forced to flee his or her country because of war, violence, or a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Refugee status in the United States means that a refugee has applied for resettlement abroad and has been granted the opportunity to resettle here. Applicants undergo a lengthy and rigorous 13-step process conducted by the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Can I run my own Charity Bowl contest just for my school?

Absolutely. Cal rocketed into the top ten last year thanks entirely to a small group of alumni trying to one-up each other. As long as your donations are made via the GiveSmart portal, they'll be counted.

What about corporate matching?

OH DO WE LOVE YOU. Yes, we accept your boss's money. (cont.)

Added incentive: All matching donations that can be verified by your employer before the end of the Bowl will be added to the leaderboard. To have your matching gift verified and scored, contact Sara Escorza {s.escorza@newamericanpathways.org}

I'm trying to donate another way.

We'll do whatever we can to help you. If you're making a donation via a family foundation/donor advised fund/trust account, donating over \$1000 and trying to avoid credit card processing fees, donating from overseas, donating via wire transfer, want to make a gift of stock or other appreciated securities, or have any other questions, please contact Carina Buchwald {cbuchwald@newamericanpathways.org} and Nancy Gaddy at {n.gaddy@newamericanpathways.org} in advance and they'll get you set up.

Where do refugees come from?

All over. In 2023, New AP welcomed refugees from Afghanistan, Ukraine, Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela, Burma, Syria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

How much money did we raise last year?

Our [initial tally](#) combined with a list of matching corporate donations that took several additional days to count landed us at **\$933,287**.

Wow, what else has this normal college football collective done?

Several years ago, thanks to your rampaging generosity, we were able to establish the [EDSBS Empowerment Fund](#). This fund covers a range of smaller needs that arise for refugees and their families outside the major programs offered by New AP. A typical use might involve paying for driving lessons so that parents can commute to their new jobs, and covering childcare during those lessons.

Who won last year's Bowl?

For a mind-bending streak of many years now, that school has been Michigan, and second place has not been close. Is this the year that narrative is challenged? We'll all find out together! Aren't you tired of making Spencer get Michigan-themed tattoos? Don't answer that!

Who were last year's runners-up?

Here's [last year's final leaderboard](#).

I can't afford to make a splashy donation. Should I even bother?

Look, if there's anybody who understands this, it's a bunch of bloggers. But! We say this every year, and it keeps on being true: The VAST majority of donations are in the \$20 range. \$10 is welcome. \$5 is welcome. It all helps.

So how does Michigan keep winning?

The schools at the top of the leaderboard all tend to have one or two big-money donors bumping them up the ranks, but even at Michigan, the \$20 donors outstrip everybody else. They keep winning because they have HORDES of donors. Wanna topple them this year? Bring your friends.

IT WOULDN'T BE AN EDSBS EVENT WITHOUT SOME WEIRD HICCUPS

RECURRING HEADACHES RECUR

Some of you will remember from last year that, on the donation platform New AP uses, we have no way of changing a recurring donation over from last year's contest to a new campaign. Yes, it's a pain in the ass for us too.

So. What does this mean for you?

It means: IF YOU SET UP A 2022 or 2023 RECURRING GIFT AND WANT IT SCORED FOR 2024, YOU HAVE TO CANCEL IT AND MAKE A NEW PLEDGE. This is tedious and we're sorry about it! Contact Sara Escorza at {s.escorza@newamericanpathways.org} to make arrangements.

One more annual recurring gifts hiccup: We have run into a ton of problems in the past trying to get recurring gifts to process via PayPal. If you want to make a recurring (monthly or quarterly) gift, it must be done via credit card. If that doesn't work for you, contact Nancy Gaddy {n.gaddy@newamericanpathways.org} for assistance in making alternate arrangements.

I DON'T SEE MY SCHOOL IN THE DROPDOWN! HATERS!!!

In a policy carried over from last year: We have had to stop adding schools to the dropdown menu because it is an absolute nightmare to get it to load on mobile. If you don't see your school on the first scroll through, check other likely places on the list before resorting to the write-in option. (Alabama might be under University of Alabama, etc.)

If you write in a school we left off the list, we'll do our best to correct it promptly. If you write in some variation of ARP ARP ARP, the New AP volunteer scoring your entry might not have any idea which dog mascot you are cheering for, and has our full and complete blessing to add your donation to any school of their choosing.

CAME TO PLAY SCHOOLS

The following pre-existing (as of 2023 bowl week) institutions are recognized as canon by EDSBS leadership and have permanent places in the dropdown list:

Make Spencer Eat Cheese University
PAY THEM KIDS THEIR MONEY
University of Night Ham
Protect Trans Kids University
Vacation Bible School
SZD U Gold Trans Ams
Jetski Police Academy
Naropa University
Soviet Cat University

SPEAKING OF WHICH

Please ESPECIALLY be your sweet selves when interacting with New AP employees and volunteers, many of whom are former refugees themselves. The Wednesday afternoon data-entry point person who misfiled your Texas Tech donation under Texas State may not know much about the Big 12, but they're also working in their fourth language, so CHILL.

THAT'S IT THAT'S ALL

It may take us a while to get there, but we didn't come this far by being timid: We're setting this year's initial goal at **\$500,000**. Dazzle us, won't you? See you Monday.