



**WRESTLING | CHANGES | LIVES**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2022 - 2023**



Dear Friends,

In the time that I have been Executive Director of Beat the Streets Lancaster (BTSL), I have been inspired by, and am grateful for our amazing youth, coaches, staff, leaders, and supporters. Because of our Beat the Streets (BTS) community, we are able to positively alter the life trajectory of thousands of young wrestlers across South Central Pennsylvania.

We are finding that BTS boys and girls are much more likely to graduate high school, enroll in post-secondary education, live healthy lifestyles, and serve their communities! By keeping youth engaged in school, athletics, and mentoring, we are closing the education gap, preventing urban violence, and helping break the poverty cycle.

It is incredible to see the progress that has already taken place, and I believe we are just getting started. There are thousands of youth that need a positive and caring coach in their corner, that need a consistent mentor, that need Beat the Streets. As we look to the future, our promise is that each and every day, we will work to meet that need.

With gratitude,



Robert Rehm  
Executive Director  
Beat the Streets Lancaster



## Our Mission

Beat the Streets exists to empower and transform the lives of youth through wrestling.

## About Us

**Beat the Streets is a network of sports-based youth development nonprofits** with independent chapter organizations currently based in Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Lancaster, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, New England, New York City, San Francisco Bay Area, and Washington D.C. Beat the Streets (BTS) chapters collectively serve over 8,400 youth each year, and have invested over \$32 million into under-resourced youth and communities since 2005. BTS organizations across the country have established a successful track record of engaging and inspiring a diverse population of youth through developing sports-based youth development programming, providing mentoring and academic support, and youth wrestling programming in some of the most vulnerable urban communities. With the formation of BTS National, BTS organizations are more unified than ever, and prepared to continue advancing the BTS mission to thousands of more youth in need.

## Core Values

Beat the Streets leadership, staff, youth, and supporters aim to live by our core values: Grit, Compassion, Service, and Team. We believe that living by these principles leads to a fulfilling life as athletes, students, professionals, and community members.

**GRIT:** Passion and perseverance in pursuit of a long-term goal

**COMPASSION:** Empathy with a willingness to act

**SERVICE:** Embrace your power to create change

**TEAM:** A diverse group of individuals is greater than the sum of their parts



# WRESTLING

# DEVELOPS

# GRIT

— “ —

*The single greatest factor in success at any endeavor is grit – the sustained passion to achieve combined with hard work over long periods of time.*

**ANGELA DUCKWORTH**

Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania  
Author of "Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance"

— ” —

## Inequities Facing our Youth

Millions of youth across the country are struggling with poverty, failing schools, violence, poor mental and physical health, and overall well-being. These adversities are much more common for black and brown children living in urban communities.

Sports have been shown to improve educational and behavioral outcomes as well as improve physical and emotional health. However, children living in poverty are six times more likely to quit sports due to cost.

Beat the Streets exists to serve these youth and ensure that cost does not prevent youth from being able to wrestle or achieve their long-term academic and life goals.

**6000+**

STUDENTS IN THE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
THE CITY OF YORK. 62%  
ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE  
AND REDUCED MEALS.

**28%**

OF LANCASTER STUDENTS  
EXPERIENCED BULLYING  
IN THE PAST YEAR

**90%**

STUDENTS IN THE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
LANCASTER ARE AT OR  
BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

**49.4%**

POVERTY RATE OF  
CHILDREN AGES 6-11  
LIVING IN HARRISBURG,  
PA

**13 MILLION**

CHILDREN LIVE IN  
POVERTY ACROSS THE  
UNITED STATES.

**ALL**

STUDENTS IN THE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
LANCASTER QUALIFY FOR  
FREE MEALS

## How We Make a Difference

Since 2016, Beat The Streets Lancaster has continued to offer student athletes and our youth avenues to succeed at the next stages of life. **Nearly 30 BTSL wrestlers have gone on to pursue a higher education either at a trade school, university or college or have enrolled in the military.** This past year, over **270** students participated in at least one BTSL practice or partnered event. Of them, **117** of our youth stepped on to a mat or event and a record breaking **31** of them qualified for the Future Varsity League Championships.

Beat The Streets Lancaster has seen an increase of female participation by **43.5%** from last year with an incredible **152 girls wrestlers**. In addition, BTSL is proud to have effectively double the amount of volunteer support and staff this past year. Each and every coach and mentor is vetted heavily to ensure that the kids are truly enriched, empowered, and having fun.

### ***BY THE NUMBERS***



28

**Beat The Streets student athletes have gone on to pursue a higher education since 2016 with 14 who went on to Thaddeus Stevens School of Technology.**

**\$820,000+**

**has been invested to our city youth in the last 7 years.**

### **YOUTH SERVED**

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
209	222	294



**43.5%**

**increase in female participation from last year with 98 in 2021-22 to 158 across all programs in 2022-23.**

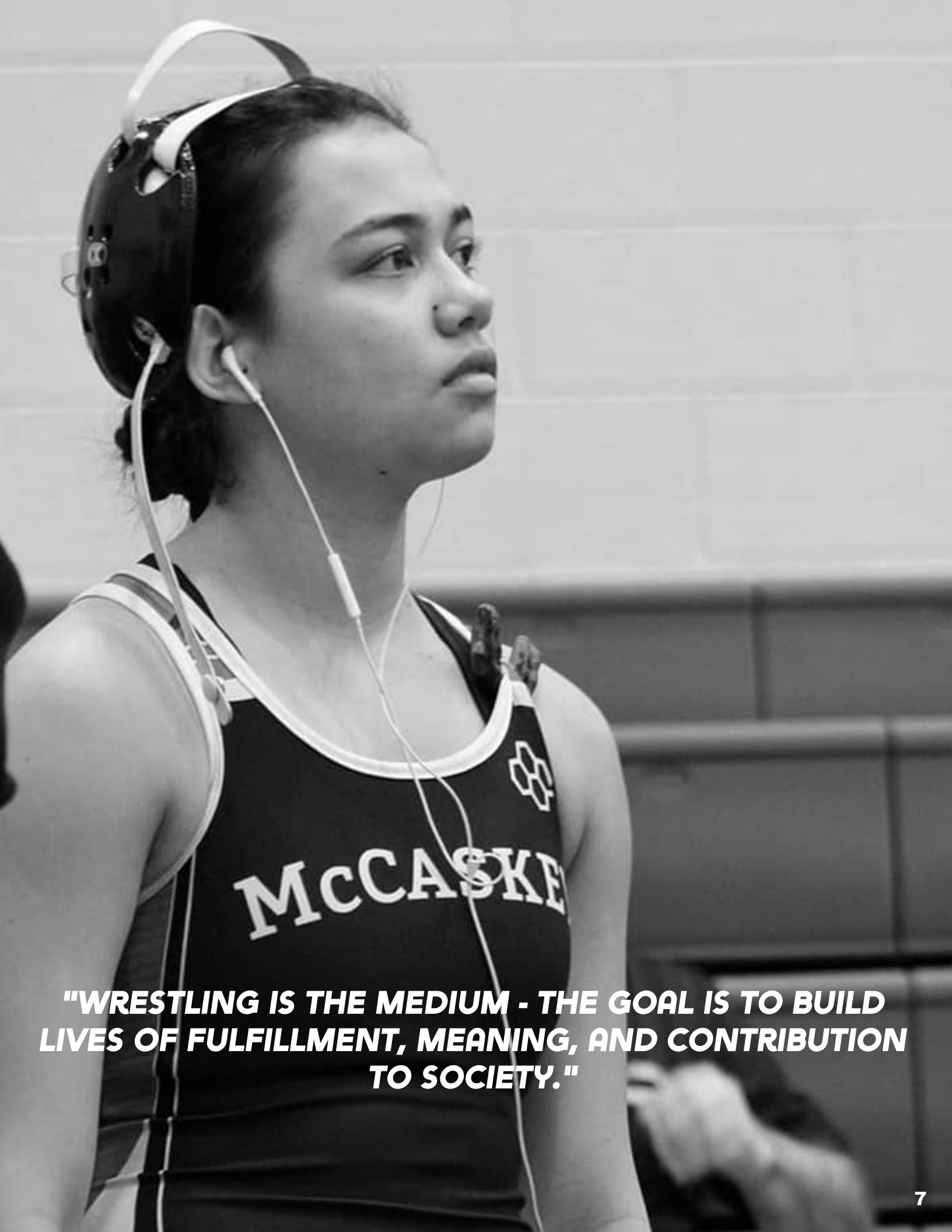
# Success Story

## JOSE



"Wrestling means everything to me, it changed my life. I have been wrestling since I was 5. Wrestling teaches you skills that you will carry with you for the rest of your life, and I am very proud to say that I am a wrestler. Beat the Streets is one of the best programs in the country in that they give kids opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have like going to Chicago. Wrestling builds character and bonds you will never forget. I want to continue coaching and wrestling around with my teammates while giving back to my community anyway I can."

***- Jose "JG3" Garcia | 2x PIAA AAA Medalist & Currently  
Enrolled at Thaddeus Stevens School of Technology***



**"WRESTLING IS THE MEDIUM - THE GOAL IS TO BUILD LIVES OF FULFILLMENT, MEANING, AND CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY."**

# The BTS National Duals 2023



At the end of June, Beat The Streets Lancaster traveled to the city of Chicago for the 2023 Beat The Streets National Camp & Duals. Eleven student-athletes and three coaches rode down to Philadelphia to join our friends at BTS Philly. From there, both chapters joined together in a coach bus for a 15-hour bus ride and an opportunity to meet and learn about each other. By the time both teams returned there was more perspective earned, friendships that were made, and a life long experience that will be carried by all of the boys and girls from both cities.

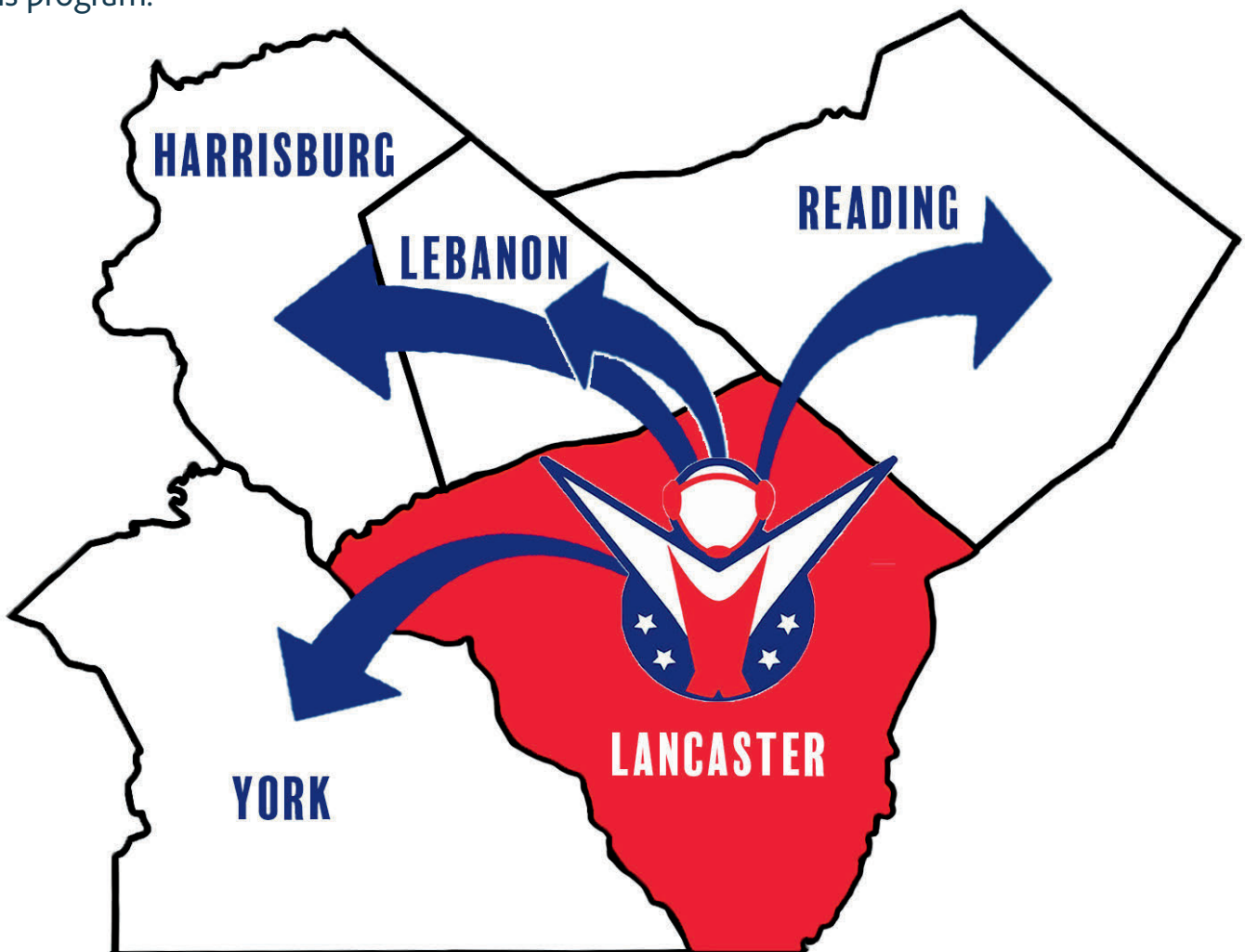
Throughout the course of the week long camp, over 350 student-athletes from 13+ chapters from across the country came together for training sessions, workshops, and numerous activities spanning through Chicago. In addition to daily wrestling sessions, wrestlers attended a Cubs/Phillies baseball game at Wrigley Field, learned from business leaders at a diversity workshop, and even had a special dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Chicago. Lancaster and Philly also competed together during the duals, with kids from both cities supporting each other during the competition.

These lifelong memories would not be possible without the generosity of our community, donors and sponsors. Thank you to everyone that helped support our kids and program to make this incredible trip happen. We're already looking forward to next year where the 2024 National Duals will be held in Boston, MA.

## A Growing Movement

The Beat The Streets mission is to empower our youth by positively impacting their lives through the sport of wrestling. BTS recognizes that there is a need beyond Lancaster City here in South Central Pennsylvania. By moving towards a regional expansion, we can enrich, empower, and support more of our youth in the surrounding cities.

The aim is to grow to 5 cities in the next 5 years. To coincide with those goals, BTS has launched the Visionary Campaign. This fundraising initiative is to form partnerships that provide our coaches, mentors and staff the resources needed to make a meaningful positive impact to our underserved youth. As visionaries, we will be coming together to make this dream a reality for Beat the Streets, the communities that we serve, and the young people whose lives will be altered through this program.



## Board of Directors

Beat the Streets cultivates youth development in underserved communities by encouraging a desire for excellence, respect, teamwork, leadership, integrity, and perseverance through quality wrestling and youth development programming. Every member of the BTSL staff and board is here for one reason, to help the kids we serve. Beat the Streets Lancaster is dedicated to promoting the mission of empowering Lancaster's youth in life and on the mats!

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**Dave Lehman**

Board Chairman & Founder

-

**Carl Becker**

Vice Chairman

-

**Stan Zeamer**

Board Member At Large

-

**Cynthia Conde**

Board Treasurer & Bookkeeper

-

**Jonathan Mitchell**

Board Member At Large

-

**Dan Burkholder**

Board Member At Large

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*"Thank you for your consideration and time. Together, we can continue to empower and support the next generation of wrestlers here in Lancaster, PA."*

**Robert Rehm**

***BTS Lancaster, Executive Director***

## How to Support

Achieving our goals will allow us to help thousands of student-athletes across the Susquehanna Valley and in no small way, change the region for the better. To do this, we need the proper foundational support. Specifically, we have to build the right team to tackle the challenges that lie ahead and capitalize upon the opportunities that we have collectively created.

To that end, we are looking for Beat the Streets Visionaries willing to make 5-year pledges to raise the \$150,000 of foundational support necessary to transform these plans and goals into a reality. By making a donation to Beat the Streets Lancaster, you are having a tremendous impact on the youth we serve, creating opportunities, changing lives and contributing to our overall society.

**OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS**  
**5 FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORTERS OF \$10,000**

**WORLD CHAMPIONS**  
**10 RECCURING**  
**SUPPORTERS OF \$5,000**

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**  
**15 RECCURING SUPPORTERS OF \$2,000**

**STATE CHAMPIONS**  
**35 RECCURING SUPPORTERS OF \$1,000**



Contact BTS Lancaster Executive Director Robert Rehm at 717-406-2593 or ([rrehm@btslancaster.org](mailto:rrehm@btslancaster.org)) Checks can be made out to

"Beat the Streets Lancaster" then mailed to "36 Penny Road, Holtwood, PA, 17532"

Beat the Streets Wrestling. • [www.btslancaster.org](http://www.btslancaster.org) • Tax ID: 81-2058286

# 1st Beat The Streets State Champion - Journie Rodriguez

In March, Journie Rodriguez became the 1st Beat The Streets Lancaster student athlete to earn a PA State Title. Journie, just a sophomore, won the title at 2023 My House Pennsylvania State Champions at 112lbs. We are incredibly proud of her and are looking forward to what she can continue to accomplish!



Journie also represented the PA National Team at the 2023 National Duals and Fargo.

# *Head Lock Hazy IPA Fundraiser*

Thank you to everyone that helped support Beat The Streets Lancaster in the 1st ever fundraiser beer with our friends at Spring House Brewing Co.

Over the course of March and April, \$8,000 was raised for Beat The Streets programming and every dollar went directly to the support of our youth.

In addition to the release, BTSL hosted the 1st annual Big Ten Wrestling Championship watch party at Spring House Brewing in Lancaster City. This was a fantastic event that brought the community together to watch some great wrestling and also support our mission as well as the Spring House.

Thank you to everyone for the support on this unique fundraiser!





**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LANCASTER | LANCASTER ALLIANCE WRESTLING  
LANCASTER POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE | LANCASTER RECREATION COMMISSION  
NATIONAL WRESTLING COACHES HALL OF FAME (PA CHAPTER)  
CIRCLE OF HOPE FOUNDATION | SPRING HOUSE BREWING CO. | ASICS  
551 WEST BAR & RESTAURANT | BLUE CHIP ATHLETIC APPAREL  
WIBN LANCASTER CHAPTER | NATIONAL WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION  
GEAR2COMPETE | YES! ATHLETICS | MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL  
BENCHMARK FOUNDATION | BEAT THE STREETS NATIONAL | RJW INDUSTRIAL**

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**DAVE LEHMAN, JONATHAN MITCHELL, LARRY CIARROCCA, JIM SCHOPF  
STAN ZEAMER, STEPHANIE EWING, DESERIE RODRIGUEZ, SHAWN PHILLIPS  
JANET M KIRCHNER, CINDY SHAFFER, THIRGAM AL-HUSSAINI, DONNA CORSE  
MIKE HOJNACKI, BARRY RICHARDSON, JARED PETERS, JOANNE JUDGE  
DENNIS EMERY, MARK RYNN, MICHAEL PATTON, JUSTIN FLORY  
ROBERT REHM SR, DEBORAH MCCLARIGAN, JOHN FARREL, ROBERT HERSHEY  
CAMERON SHERTZER, ERIN BATTAGLIA, PRESTON PEIFFER, KRISTAL FIGUEROA  
ROBERT REHM, JACOB FUNK, JOSE TIRADO, JESSICA HENRY, DAVE WILSON  
JOHN STONER, JONATHAN CLARK, FRANCES M. CORSE, DAVE HAINES  
SHANE BRACKUP, TRACEY BAUMAN, MEGAN JONES-TURNER, JOSHUA STRALEY  
JOSHUA MUSSMON, HEIDI FUERST, JULIE GRANADOS, CARL BECKER  
JOSE GARCIA, RUSS GLADFELTER, DIANE STRECK, JUSTIN HERBERT  
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SCOTT SHENK, DOMINIC TORIELLO, JAMES DEVENNEY, IAN STOECKL  
ADAM SALAZER, RANDY BLASDELL, CASSANDRA HOUSTON, BETHANY REHM  
BETH SAUDER, CHRISTINE CRUZ, ROBERT HARR, CHRISTA FEISTER  
KEVIN FRANKLIN, LAURI SELLERS, PAT TOCCI, STEVE CAPOFERRI, & MATT FLICK  
CRAIG TRISSLER, BRYAN ORTENZIO, BRADY MATHIAS, CHRIS FRANKLIN  
AUSTIN MILLER, DAN BURKHOLDER, MIKE MOYER & MANY MORE!**

# ***THANK YOU!***

***TO ALL OF OUR OF OUR DONORS, SUPPORTERS, COACHES AND MENTORS FOR EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH.***



36 Penny Road  
Holtwood, PA 17532  
[www.btslanaster.org](http://www.btslanaster.org)

