

GUARDIAN TRAINING

YEAR 2023

GUARDIAN

ANNUAL REPORT

LATEST INFORMATION AND UPDATES
ABOUT GUARDIAN PROJECT

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**PREPARED BY:
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CALDER POWERS**





Guardian, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is committed to providing free youth jiu jitsu scholarships to underprivileged children globally.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is Guardian's mission to offer children year-round stability and consistency through our jiu jitsu programs, focusing not just on their physical transformation, but also on fostering positive friendships, mentorship opportunities, and a secure environment during challenging times.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In an extraordinary year of growth and impact, Guardian Training expanded its mission to empower underprivileged youth through jiu-jitsu, adding six new locations to our global family. Now operating in 13 locales, including South Central Los Angeles, the East Bay Area, Baltimore, Mt. Hood, Greenwich, Monterey, Nashville, the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho, Maui, Coral Springs Florida, Ulaanbaatar Mongolia, Mancora, and Lobitos in Peru, we've directly impacted 348 young lives. Our expansion reflects not just our growing geographical footprint but a deeper impact in transforming lives through mentorship, confidence-building, and resilience.

With the dedication of our staff, volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and robust partnerships, we've taken significant strides towards our vision of Jiu Jitsu for All. As we navigate towards 2024, we're energized to deepen our impact, embrace new opportunities, and serve more communities. We're building leaders and changemakers for tomorrow, and we thank every individual who has joined us in this journey.



A LETTER FROM GUARDIAN'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Dear Guardian Family and supporters,

At Guardian, we strongly believe jiu jitsu to be one of the most powerful tools for positive transformation. As jiu jitsu continues to grow in popularity, a problem remains. Youth memberships are largely unaffordable to families of at risk or underprivileged kids.

All kids deserve the ability to participate, learn, and obtain an education through jiu jitsu. Since operating in 2015 we have seen incredible impacts amongst our students including dropping out of gangs, overcoming issues with suicide, depression, drug use, improvement in school, authentic confidence, fitness and so much more.

Our commitment to this mission is deeply personal. Each member of our team is not only a passionate advocate for the sport but also a product of its benefits, with over a decade of training that has indelibly shaped our lives.

For the youth we serve, our programs represent more than a lifeline for self-defense; they are gateways to a future defined by strength, belonging, and hope.

We invite you to be a part of it.

CALDER POWERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ABOUT GUARDIAN

Guardian Training, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, champions the cause of providing free youth jiu-jitsu scholarships to underprivileged children worldwide. Founded in 2015 by Ben Kovacs and Joel Lunenfeld, Guardian is committed to offering stability, consistency, and a nurturing environment through our programs, focusing on physical transformation and fostering positive relationships, mentorship, and a safe haven during challenging times.

OUR IMPACT IN 2023

Our scholarship program has been a beacon of hope for 348 students, offering them a safe haven filled with friends, mentors, and a supportive community. In 2023, we broadened our reach to Lobitos, Peru, addressing the urgent needs of its youth. Our expansion into Nashville, Mt. Hood, Monterey, the Nez Perce Reservation, and Coral Springs Florida brought the transformative power of jiu-jitsu to new waves of underprivileged youth.



“Jiu jitsu is the best. I feel like I can stand up to bullying.”
Anthony, Guardian Los Angeles Student



98%

Of students report having gained trustworthy friends and mentors.

81%

Reported improved grades at school.

*Surveys were conducted over a six month period throughout our projects.



348

Number of underprivileged youth currently on a Guardian Scholarship.

2000+

Number of underprivileged youth that have been enrolled on a Guardian scholarship in the past since 2015.

13

Number of Guardian Academies Worldwide.

300+

Current number of Mentors under across all Guardian Academies.

2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth Scholarship Expansion: Our programs now actively engage 348 youth, marking a significant increase in enrollment and participation.
- Launch of Guardian Peru Lobitos: Marking our third international academy, we're offering free jiu-jitsu classes and mentorship to 31 youth in Lobitos, sparking immense enthusiasm and engagement.
- Jiu Jitsu Para Todos - Short Film: Our mini-documentary highlighting the impactful work at Guardian Peru has captivated an audience of over 500,000 people on social media.
- Expansion to Nez Perce Reservation: Our new academy serves the Native American community, reflecting our commitment to diversity and inclusion.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

- Continued Expansion: We aim to open more academies and increase scholarship offerings, furthering our mission's reach.
- Enhanced Storytelling: We'll focus on in-depth stories showcasing the success and transformation of our youth.
- Strengthened Partnerships: We plan to engage more foundations and companies aligned with our mission, expanding our support network.
- Ambassador Outreach: Leveraging ambassadors to spread our message will continue to be a key strategy in raising awareness and support.





Academy Locations:

USA:

- Los Angeles CA
- Maui HI
- Monterey CA
- Castro Valley CA
- Mt. Hood OR
- Nez Perce Reservation ID
- Nashville TN
- Baltimore MD
- Greenwich CT
- Coral Springs FL

International:

- Mancora, Peru
- Lobitos Peru
- Ulaanbaatar Mongolia

A GLOBAL REVIEW



“Jiu Jitsu is probably the number one activity that I could recommend to someone to improve their lives overall. Parents, get your kids into jiu jitsu. Not only will it help them from being bullied. It will help them from bullying others.”

JOCKO WILLINK
GUARDIAN AMBASSADOR



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This journey wouldn't have been possible without the continued support and shared vision of our partners and the community. Their unwavering dedication has played a pivotal role in realizing our goals, and we're excited to sustain and build upon this momentum in the years to come, making a lasting impact on youth. Together, we will continue to empower and uplift the next generation.



MORE INFO & CONTENT



WEBSITE

www.guardiangym.org



INSTAGRAM

[@guardiangym](https://www.instagram.com/guardiangym)



YOUTUBE

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