

## Lauren Sánchez Knows She's 'Lucky' to 'Be Part of' Billion-Dollar Charity That's 'Genuinely Making a Difference' (Exclusive)

"Philanthropy, to me, is about more than just giving, it's about making a real, lasting impact that helps shape the world for future generations," Sánchez says

By [Gillian Telling](#) and [Esme Mazzeo](#) | Published on August 31, 2024 10:00AM EDT



Lauren Sánchez.

[Lauren Sánchez](#) is reflecting on her philanthropic work and making a difference in the world.

In this week's issue of PEOPLE, Sánchez — who is also preparing for the upcoming release of her children's book, *The Fly Who Flew to Space* — opens up about the commitment to giving back she shares with fiancé [Jeff Bezos](#).

"With the Bezos Earth Fund, we're all about big ideas, Jeff [kicked things off with a \\$10 billion commitment](#) to tackle climate change, and as Vice Chair, I'm all in on that vision," says Sánchez, 54. "We're working on everything from [conserving nature](#) to rethinking how we produce food."

"I'm a big believer that we can innovate our way out of this crisis. Sure, some ideas might not pan out, but others will, and those could be game changers," she adds. "My hope is that what we're doing now will inspire others, today and in the future, to push the envelope and create the kind of technologies that'll secure a sustainable planet for all of us."



Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez in 2023. PHOTO: KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY

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The mom of three says that her philanthropy journey began when she was “just a kid.”

“My nana used to volunteer at a local hospital, and we’d bake banana bread together to hand out to the nurses and doctors. It’s such a simple thing, but it left a mark on me,” she says. “Philanthropy, to me, is about more than just giving, it’s about making a real, lasting impact that helps shape the world for future generations.”

**For more on Lauren Sánchez’s life now and her quiet moments with fiancé Jeff Bezos, pick up this week’s issue of PEOPLE, on newsstands Friday, or [subscribe](#).**

Another meaningful experience has been her work with [This Is About Humanity](#), an organization focused on raising awareness and providing support for families at the U.S.-Mexico border.

“Being there with my kids, meeting these incredible families, and just spending time together — it was so real and heartwarming,” says Sánchez, who shares 23-year-old son Nikko Gonzales with retired football player Tony Gonzales, and two teenage children, Evan and Ella, with her ex-husband, top Hollywood agent Patrick Whitesell.

“We made meals, baked cupcakes, and handed out backpacks stuffed with games and essentials,” she adds. “The smiles on those kids’ faces — I still think about them.”

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