

= Hogettes =

The Hogettes were a group of 12 male Washington Redskins fans who wore women 's dresses , garden party hats , and pig snouts for two purposes : to cheer on their favorite NFL team and to raise money for charity . The group was founded in 1983 by Michael Torbert and became a regular fixture at Redskins games for nearly 30 years . When the group announced its retirement , effective with the end of the 2012 season , it had 12 active and 15 former members , including three who have been featured in an exhibit at the Pro Football Hall of Fame as part of the VISA Hall of Fans .

The group retains a high profile largely because of their outrageous costumes , but also because of their frequent work for charitable organizations . The Hogettes have appeared in a national advertising campaign for VISA , and they provide support for many charities , including Children 's Miracle Network , Ronald McDonald House , and March of Dimes . They have raised over US \$ 100 million for these and other charitable causes . Despite their philanthropic work , the Hogettes are disliked by some and have even been attacked by fans of opposing teams .

= = History = =

The origin of the Hogettes can be traced to October 1983 when Michael Torbert (Mikey T.) , founder of the group , went to a Halloween party at his grandmother 's retirement home wearing one of her old dresses as a costume . The costume was such a hit that he gathered a group of men who he " thought were tough enough to go out in public in a dress . " The group would go to children 's hospitals to cheer up sick children . On November 27 , 1983 , the group attended their first Washington Redskins football game in full drag , but with the addition of pig snout masks , in reference to The Hogs , the nickname of the Redskins offensive line players .

Led by Mikey T. , now known as " Boss Hogette " , the group became regular fixtures at Redskins home games , both at their old home of RFK Stadium and their new home of FedExField . The group made more than 100 appearances each year for charitable events , and Mikey T. and two other Hogettes were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as " ultimate " Redskins fans . There were a total of 27 members of the group from 1983 to 2012 , with twelve active members at conclusion . Though they have considerable notoriety , they receive no special treatment or official recognition from the Redskins . After the conclusion of the 2012 NFL season , the Hogettes announced they would be retiring their iconic outfits after 30 years of appearances .

= = = Origin of the name = = =

In the 1980s , the Washington Redskins ' Offensive Line coach , Joe Bugel , began to refer to his linemen as " Hogs " . The Hogs were credited for much of the Redskins success in the 1980s and early 1990s , including four Super Bowl appearances and three Super Bowl wins in a 10 @-@ season period from 1982 to 1991 . The group began wearing pig noses and named themselves " The Hogettes " in reference to the Hogs and to the Washington Redskins ' official cheerleaders , originally known as the " Redskinettes . "

= = Philanthropy = =

The Hogettes organized and attended charitable events in the Washington , D.C. , area for over twenty years . In that time , they helped raise more than US \$ 100 million for various charities , including Children 's Miracle Network , Ronald McDonald House , and March of Dimes . Upon reaching this landmark value , Howard " Howiette " Churchill remarked , " That 's a lot of money for a bunch of fat old grandpas in pig noses and dresses . " Among these events were golf tournaments , including the Hogettes ' annual charity golf tournament , walk @-@ a @-@ thons , truck rallies , galas , and other charity benefits .

While some of their charitable efforts went toward helping their local community , most of the money they raise goes toward helping children . " Hogette for a Game " was an annual fund raiser . In 1995

, Nick " Nickette " Nerangis ' wife bought him this package . He subsequently became a substitute Hogette for several years before becoming an official member in 2002 . One female fan has , for several years , served as " Hogette for a Game " through winning annual auctions . In 2000 , she raised more than \$ 11 @, @ 000 for children 's charities in order to attend one game with the Hogettes that season .

In an online interview with fans , Torbert stated " You ... have to have a sense of humor for many things from day to day . It is tough to be humorous when the [Redskins] lose , but it 's even tougher to face a sick child in a hospital room , and cheer them up with our humorous looks . That 's tough . "

= = National exposure = =

In addition to gaining national exposure through their outrageous costumes and continuous work with charitable organizations , the Hogettes were guests on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno , and were featured in a VISA television commercial . Despite their generous philanthropy and positive attitude in the stands , not everyone appreciated the Hogettes . Longtime Washington Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke and Daniel Snyder ? the current owner ? both failed to embrace the Hogettes . The group was called " incredibly obnoxious " and " annoying " , and were attacked in the infamous 700 Level at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia by angry Philadelphia Eagles fans .

= = Members = =

In addition to the 12 final season members , there were 15 retired " official " Hogettes , as well as numerous temporary and substitute members , including winners of the " Hogette for a Game " auction .

= = Retirement = =

On January 11 , 2013 , founder Michael Tolbert announced that the Hogettes were retiring after 30 years , telling the Washington Post , " 30 seasons is enough of guys in pig snouts and dresses . " Tolbert further states , ? It ? s a new era . It was great seeing RGIII and Alfred Morris break onto the scene , and it ? s a perfect time to retire the old era and start the new . ? The Hogettes insist that they will continue to be fans of the Redskins and do charity work in the Washington area .