

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPORTS PROGRAM

2014 RECREATION PLAN

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPORTS PROGRAM



Teamwork *Sportsmanship * Perseverance * Integrity * Trust * Respect

TEACHING CORE VALUES AND LIFE SKILLS THROUGH THE FUNDAMENTALS OF Sports

Larry Crawford - Director



HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION

Unity Community Development Corporation is a not for profit corporation with a mission to improve the Quality of Life of the historically underserved residents of the 4th and 5th Council Districts of Joliet by holistically addressing their needs in the areas of humans services and employment; education and recreation; housing and commercial development, neighborhood organizing, small business development and transportation.

SUMMARY

The Unity Community Development Corporation Youth Development Sports Program targets all youths of the neighborhoods within the targeted Joliet Districts 4 & 5, and surrounding Joliet/ Will County area for youth between the ages of five and thirteen. The program is designed to focus on youth development and, the parent and the community. Our primary goal is to teach and reinforce core values and life skills using the fundamentals of baseball and any other sport.

PROBLEM \ SITUATION

Children of underserved communities are plagued daily with affects of drug use and peddling, criminal activity sexual promiscuity and gang problems. The affects of these problems are now evidenced by school failures and drop out rates being at an all time high. The drop-out rate is the highest among the surrounding districts.

Local community organizations have attempted to address the problem by creating after school tutoring and recreational programs. However, there is a greater need to increase recreation and education programs.

Ongoing recreation has been proven to reduce crime help kids stay in school, and avoid the consequences of criminal behavior. Implementing core values and life skills can bring out the 'best' in a child and can literally change their life forever. Therefore, these youth must be provided with positive experiences to help them stay in school and become successful in life. Core values and life skills reinforced through baseball can provide those experiences.

METHODOLOGY

Youth Development Sports Program will partner with residents, community organizations, and church's to recruit volunteer baseball (and other sports) participants who will play, manage, teach, coach and umpire the game of baseball while teaching and reinforcing core values and life skills. Youth will learn how to compete with character on and off the field.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Our program objectives are the most important part of the program. We have an experienced trainer (Mr. Larry Crawford) who will teach/instruct the coaches' then, the coach's will teach the program participants. The Unity Community Development philosophy is: "It's not about the sport; it's about the core values and life skills. To this end, our primary focus is youth development. ---- Mac Willis, UCDC

Additionally our life skill and core value instructors/coaches will focus on the following areas:

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- Aligning baseball fundamentals with core values and life skills
- Introduce core values and life skills that confront the challenges to adulthood
- Ignite hidden talents within the youth of underserved neighborhoods.
- Align youth with positive peers.
- Place vulnerable young people in a positive environment.
- Introduce sound principles that can help youth progress to the next level in their social development.
- Equip youth with a social skills which can provide a path for future leaders.

REQUIREMENTS/EXPECTATIONS:

- Registration and parental/guardian consent forms must be complete.
- All coaches and volunteers must attend core value and life skill training.
- Unity CDC will seek background check for all coaches
- Parents or guardians are expected to attend at least 1 orientation.
- Parents are expected to assist program leads and coaches with executing the core values and life skills.
- All transportation will be responsibility of parent, guardian, or organizations.

DIVISIONS:

- All Star – Ages 11 to 13 Boys & Girls - (Based on team availability)
- Playoffs – Ages 8 to 10 Boys & Girls – (Based on team availability)
- Tee Ball – Ages 5 to 7 Boys & Girls

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES:

Parents are to provide Gloves, Shoes and Protective equipment

- Uniforms – T-Shirts & Caps will be purchased by Unity CDC
 - Baseball rules (concise)
 - Fielding
 - Hitting
 - Physical Conditioning
 - Rules of the Game

Aligning baseball fundamentals with core values and life skills:

CORE VALUES & LIFE SKILLS (Disciplines)

- Sportsmanship
- Perseverance
- Integrity
- Trust
- Respect
- Teamwork

Baseball Fundamentals

- Throwing

- Catching
- Pitching
- Hitting
- Running

Program Outcomes

- Teamwork
- Diversity
- Community involvement
- Decrease school truancy
- Improved quality of life
- Improved social skills
- Inclusion
- Empowerment
- Selfless Pride
- Youth enrichment

COST: \$35.00 PER YOUTH

Draft – Baseball Plan Timeline

Note: The date below are based on the levels of registration and are subject to change at any time

Registration	March 31 to April 15
Selecting teams	April to May
Practice and games schedule	TBA at Registration
Opening Day	TBA
1 st Game	TBA
Last Game	TBA
Award & recognitions.....	TBA

Unity Youth Development Sports Program is appreciative of your donations.