

UNITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/NFP

# 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Council Districts of Joliet

All material in this plan is, unless otherwise stated, is the property of Unity Community Development Corporation/nfp. Copyright and other intellectual property laws protect these materials. Reproduction or retransmission of the materials, in whole or in part, in any manner, without the prior written consent of the copyright holder, is a violation of copyright law.

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, the parent and the community. Our primary goal is to teach and reinforce core values and life skills using the fundamentals of sports.

### **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 suspension, expulsion and drop out rates being at an all time high. The drop-out rate is the highest among the targeted districts.

Local community organizations have attempted to address the problem by creating after school tutoring and recreational programs. However, there continues to be a 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 children and literally change their lives 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 developmental sports and recreational programs can provide those experiences.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPORTS PROGRAM** will partner with residents, community organizations, and church's to recruit and training volunteer participants who will play, manage, teach, coach, referee and umpire the games 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 will have an experienced trainer who will provide instruction for the coaches; then the coaches will teach the program participants. The Unity Community Development philosophy is: "It's not about mastering the sport; it's about mastering 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:

- Aligning sports 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.

All material in this plan is, unless otherwise stated, is the property of Unity Community Development Corporation/nfp. Copyright and other intellectual property laws protect these materials. Reproduction or retransmission of the materials, in whole or in part, in any manner, without the prior written consent of the copyright holder, is a violation of copyright law.

- Align youth with positive peers.
- Place vulnerable young people in a positive environment.
- Introduce principles that can help youth progress to the next level in their social development.
- Equip youth with social skills which can provide a path for future leadership.

### **REQUIREMENTS / EXPECTATIONS:**

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

### **RECREATION DIVISIONS: (ALL SPORTS)**

- 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

#### **Core Values & Life Skills (Disciplines) - Continued**

- Trust
- Respect
- Teamwork

#### **Baseball Fundamentals:**

- Throwing

All material in this plan is, unless otherwise stated, is the property of Unity Community Development Corporation/nfp. Copyright and other intellectual property laws protect these materials. Reproduction or retransmission of the materials, in whole or in part, in any manner, without the prior written consent of the copyright holder, is a violation of copyright law.

- Catching
- Pitching
- Hitting
- Running

**Program Outcomes:**

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

**Tentative - Baseball Plan Timeline:**

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

Registration .....	March 31 to April 19
Identifying teams .....	April to May
Practice and games schedule .....	June
Opening Day .....	TBA
1 <sup>st</sup> Game .....	TBA
Last Game .....	TBA
Award & recognitions.....	TBA

**Contact Us:**

**For questions regarding this plan contact Larry Crawford, Director at 815-722-9200**

**UCDC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPORTS PROGRAM IS APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR DONATIONS**

All material in this plan is, unless otherwise stated, is the property of Unity Community Development Corporation/nfp. Copyright and other intellectual property laws protect these materials. Reproduction or retransmission of the materials, in whole or in part, in any manner, without the prior written consent of the copyright holder, is a violation of copyright law.