



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAC Sports Foundation Pledges \$50,000 to Kick Off Campaign for New Youth & Family Center Initiative

St. Louis (Sept. 13, 2022) The MAC Sports Foundation has pledged \$50,000 to kick off an effort to raise \$150,000 for the installation of a new gymnasium floor at the Youth and Family Center (YFC). The funds were raised at the MAC Sports Foundation's recent annual golf tournament.

The initiative was set into motion when Michael McMillan, President of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, introduced the MAC Sports Foundation to the YFC. The two organizations, each steeped in tradition with a long, rich history, share a mission to reach generations of families through athletic programs and life-enriching experiences.

“When we heard about the need at the Youth and Family Center, the MAC Sports Foundation was inspired to get involved and take the lead,” said Wally Smith, General Manager of the Missouri Athletic Club. “The YFC does so much great work in our community, and this is a wonderful opportunity to help them make a big impact in our downtown neighborhood. Our two organizations share a vision that athletics has the power to make a positive difference in the lives of our young people.”

Through the leadership of Dr. LaChrisa Crenshaw, YFC Executive Director, and her staff, the YFC is changing lives and building community connections one family at a time. Currently, the YFC's biggest need to advance its mission is a new gymnasium floor. The current gymnasium is a multi-functional and recreational space used by all ages; however, the concrete and urethane-coated floor is failing and unsafe, limiting the organization's ability to offer young people quality programs in a safe environment.

“They want a place to go that they can be proud of,” said Dr. Crenshaw. “A place that offers the opportunity to make good choices. Right now, there aren't a lot of places for our kids, teens and young adults to be active and have fun. We want to provide that space for them at the Center.



Having a renovated and functioning gym floor with secure and usable exterior doors would help us in so many ways.”

Coach Floyd Irons, the legendary former coach at Vashon High School, serves as the Youth Sports Coordinator at the YFC. “A new gym floor would give us the ability to start a youth basketball league,” said Irons. “It would enhance all activities for one of our greatest resources, ‘Our Youth.’ I am a firm believer that more than coal, more than nuclear power, children are our greatest resource.”

The MAC Sports Foundation is encouraging any business or individual interested in directly impacting the lives of our downtown neighbors to contribute to the goal of funding this project. You will be giving kids and families a much-needed safe, functioning space to enjoy healthy activities while building positive experiences and offering more opportunities to achieve their full potential.

“It’s no secret that downtown has faced its share of challenges in recent years,” said Smith. “The challenges can seem overwhelming, but if we start making improvements one block at a time, the goal of making a meaningful impact is attainable. The entire community can pull together and make a very powerful change in the lives of the residents of our neighborhood. We’re reaching out to our downtown neighbors in the business community as well as individuals to join us in this important effort.”

Individuals interested in helping can go to mac-sportsfoundation.org for more information. Businesses interested in helping can contact kkelpe@mac-stl.org for details.

About the Youth & Family Center (YFC): Founded in 1888, the Youth & Family (YFC) supports residents of St. Louis to achieve their full potential. The YFC vision remains for every youth, senior, and family to have the necessary resources to live healthy, stable, and independent lives in a safe and vibrant community. Today, YFC programs educate, advocate, build job skills and support healthy living across generations. As community stabilizers, they strive to meet evolving community needs.

About the MAC Sports Foundation: The mission of the MAC Sports Foundation is to further encourage and recognize outstanding achievements in the field of athletics and, in connection therewith, to select for public recognition those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to and achievements in the fields of sports and athletics.

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www.mac-sportsfoundation.org