



MAC SPORTS FOUNDATION KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN

for New Youth & Family Center Initiative

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) in downtown St. Louis. 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, MAC General Manager. "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 resources."

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.”

Businesses and individuals looking to help

support this initiative can contact Kara Kelpel at kkelpel@mac-stl.org or visit mac-sportsfoundation.org for more information.

ABOVE: SIGNS OF WEAR AND TEAR ARE EVIDENT IN THE YFC GYMNASIUM. DUE TO THE LACK OF STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT, THE URETHANE-COATED CONCRETE FLOOR DOES NOT PROVIDE THE PROPER BACKING FOR CHILDREN TO SAFELY PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS WITHOUT RISKING INJURY.

OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT: WHETHER USED FOR BASKETBALL GAMES OR HULA HOOPING, THE GYMNASIUM IS THE HEART OF THE YFC FOR ALL AGES.

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM LEFT: YFC STAFF CAN BE SEEN PARTICIPATING IN MANY ACTIVITIES WITH YFC MEMBERS, NO MATTER HOW CHALLENGING.

RIGHT: THE YFC PROVIDES CHILDREN, TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS TO ESCAPE TO A WELCOMING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT FOSTERS GROWTH IN A VARIETY OF AREAS.



Experience All We Have To Offer



McKnight Place
Assisted Living &
Memory Care

Excellent Care & Personalized Services

At McKnight Place, we cater to our beloved residents and their families by providing the very best in senior living, each and every day. Our commitment to a higher standard of care and personal attention remains steadfast. We are always here to help our vibrant residents continue to thrive and pursue their interests.

Call us today for more information or to schedule a tour.

(314) 993-3333 • McKnightPlace.com

