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Local Support Helps Teens Coach & Play

Wellesley, MA (August 26th, 2020) - Thanks to the support of three local organizations, Wellesley teens returned to our ballfields to enjoy coaching and playing ball this summer. Community Investors, a local non-profit, awarded twenty-five Student Coaching Scholarships through its "PowerPlay Project". Funded by grants from the Wellesley Rotary Club and The Community Fund for Wellesley, the Coaching Scholarships are one of many PowerPlay Project programs designed to engage students in enjoyable programs, while educating them on the importance and benefits of physical activity, play and mindfulness. Responding to increases in youth anxiety, depression, and suicides, local parents in youth development, mental health, teaching, coaching and management founded Community Investors in 2014 to support the physical, social and emotional wellness of youth through its PowerPlay Project. The grants are directly funding summer participation and stipends to twenty-five local high school student coaches and middle school coaches in training (CITs) via achievement and need scholarships in the Terriers Student Coaching, Leadership, Music and Media programs. "Wellesley Rotary is extremely proud to help more students enjoy these wonderful experiences this summer" said Linda Tighe, a Rotarian & Publisher of Wellesley Living Well Magazine. "Supporting youth wellness is a focus of Wellesley Rotary and after visiting the program, I was so inspired to see kids of all ages safely having a lot of fun together." Beyond the fun, Beth Sullivan Woods, from the Wellesley Board of Selectmen and advisory member of the Community Fund For Wellesley, was impressed by the program's long record of achievement which includes professional educators, athletes, coaches, musicians, media and entrepreneurs. "These kids get invaluable learning experiences. They learn how to build, manage and lead teams while providing instruction in athletics and real life lessons." The PowerPlay Project develops blueprints of the Terriers programs to share with local communities, schools and organizations. They direct enrichment experiences at Wellesley's Middle School and High School as well as an East Boston Middle School, a Roxbury youth organization and Framingham public housing communities. "Our programs are a managed fusion of music, free play and inclusive team sports led by youth coaches, DJs and announcers" said Joe Roberts, who leads the Terriers programs and serves as Community Investor's Executive Director. A popular program since 1991, capacity for the summer coaching program has always been a challenge, said Roberts. "Our coaching programs offer opportunities to play as well as instruct and the CITs and Coaches have as much fun as the players. These scholarships have allowed far more kids to enjoy participating and earn valued stipends. Beyond our town, we are trying to share three decades of experience providing children of various ages, gender, backgrounds and ability equal levels of enjoyment playing together. We have a recipe to provide needed organic remedies, truly transformational experiences. We are trying to reach as many kids as possible. Every town, city and school needs these types of programs, and we are on a mission to expand our reach and impact." added Roberts. "The support we have received is greatly appreciated, and we ask all who care about the future of our youth to learn more about our initiatives." Additional program highlights and information can be found at [The PowerPlay Project](#), [Community Investors](#) and [The Wellesley Rotary](#).

Robbie Johnson

Terriers Hall of Famer, Wellesley SportsBlitz Founder & "The Voice of Wellesley High School Sports"