

An Introduction and Collaboration Framework



kids + coaches

AN INNER-CITY ADVOCACY - NASHVILLE, TN

A 501 © 3 ORGANIZATION



Kids & Coaches | Nashville Inner-City Advocacy

What are we doing?

Breaking Barriers

Building Futures

Nurturing Hope through Sport

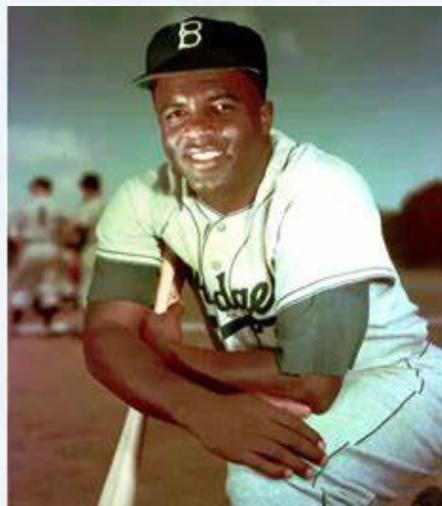
Kids & Coaches is a 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to providing Nashville's underserved inner-city children (ages 5-12) with year-round access to youth sports. We seek strategic partnerships to form an Inner-City Sports Collective, uniting resources to address systemic challenges facing marginalized youth through **ADVOCACY, ACCESS,** and **EFFICIENCY.**



Our work tied to the Nashville's civil rights journey

Nashville's civil rights journey—from the forced labor of 2,800 freed slaves building Fort Negley to John Lewis leading student sit-ins—provides a powerful backdrop for our youth sports initiative.

Just as Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier in 1947, our youth leagues continue breaking down social divisions by creating spaces where marginalized children can participate, compete, and build relationships through baseball.





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Our baseball program honors Nashville's equality legacy while building a better future. On these fields, marginalized children learn more than athletic skills—they develop character, teamwork, and mutual respect that will serve them throughout life. *We are nurturing hope by creating opportunity in communities that have historically fought for both.*

The impact of Kids & Coaches initiatives extends far beyond the field.

According to The Aspen Institute's *Project Play*:

- *Youth sports participants are 3 times more likely to graduate high school than their peers*
- *They are 92% less likely to use drugs*
- *They are 75% less likely to be incarcerated*
- *They show 40% better test scores*
- *They have 30% lower obesity rates*

Many inner-city children are unable to access the life-changing benefits of organized sports due to barriers like high costs, a lack of safe community centers, and limited access to structured activities.



The Situation in Nashville

Kids & Coaches' work is fundamentally about advocating for Nashville's marginalized youth - those who lack resources and opportunities. By investing in underserved communities, we are not just promoting play; we are working to break cycles of poverty, prevent violence, and give every child in Nashville a fair shot at a brighter future.

- Only 31% of children from families at or below the poverty line participate in sports, compared to 70% of their higher-income peers (Aspen Institute Project Play, 2024)
- Davidson County detained 224 juveniles in the first five months of 2024 (Tennessee Office of Juvenile Justice, 2024)
- 14 youth were transferred to the adult system in 2023 (Tennessee Office of Juvenile Justice, 2024)
- Gun violence remains a persistent threat, with 14 homicide victims between ages 13 and 17 this year (Nashville Banner, 2024)
- Recent tragedies include the loss of a young girl in Antioch (Nashville Banner, 2024)
- Unreliable public transportation in neighborhoods such as North Nashville and Antioch further limits access to after-school programs and safe spaces (Nashville Transportation Improvement Plan, 2024)



Inner-City Sports Collective

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE INNER-CITY COLLECTIVE

The proposed Inner-City Sports Collective represents a strategic approach focused on measurable return on investment rather than traditional charity metrics. We accomplish this goal by consolidating resources, expertise, and networks with aligned organizations to target our most vulnerable youth.

1. **Amplify** the voices and needs of inner-city children and their families through coordinated community engagement and policy initiatives.
2. **Create** equitable pathways for marginalized youth (ages 5-12) to participate in organized sports, mentorship programs, and developmental activities that would otherwise be unavailable to them. In addition to baseball, Kids & Coaches donates to Weverly-Belmont Football team and its cheerleaders.
3. **Implement** a streamlined operational model that eliminates duplication, maximizes resource utilization, and delivers measurable outcomes per dollar invested.
4. **Promote** academic excellence.
5. **Encourage** healthy lifestyles, and positive social behaviors through mentorship.
6. **Support** the whole child through mentorship and coaching.
7. **Foster** a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for all participants
8. **Educate** the public influencers and donors on the lack of the resources in the Nashville inner-city community.



How can you help?

Kids & Coaches seeks collaborative partnerships to enhance our impact on Nashville's inner-city youth. The followings are parts of our desired supports:

- **Fundraising:** Consistent financial support helps to establish sustainability for the program
- **Resource Sharing:** Access to facilities, equipment, and transportation that would enable more inner-city children to participate in organized sports programs.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Assistance in recruiting and organizing volunteers to serve as coaches, mentors, and program administrators, ensuring adequate adult guidance for participating youth.
- **Capacity Building:** Technical assistance in program evaluation, grant writing, and organizational development to strengthen our operational foundation.
- **Community Connections:** Introductions to community leaders, business partners, and potential funders who align with our mission of nurturing hope through youth sports.
- **Advocacy Support:** Partnership in advocating for policies that prioritize youth sports access in underserved communities, including funding for facilities, after-school programs, and transportation solutions.
- **Program Endorsement:** Public recognition of the importance of organized sports for marginalized youth and the specific impact of our collective approach.



Next Steps?

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this collaboration framework in greater detail. Here are the proposed next steps:

1. **Initial Conversation:** Schedule a meeting with interested parties to explore mutual goals and discuss how your organization's strengths might complement our mission.
2. **Site Visit:** Visit our current program locations to observe firsthand the impact of organized sports on Nashville's inner-city youth.
3. **Stakeholder Meeting:** Convene key decision-makers to identify specific collaboration opportunities and establish implementation timelines.
4. **Draft Agreement:** Develop a formal document outlining agreed-upon contributions, responsibilities, and expected outcomes.
5. **Public Announcement:** Coordinate a joint announcement highlighting our shared commitment to Nashville's youth and the specific initiatives.

The Importance of This Collaboration Framework

By joining forces, we can create a sustainable model that maximizes limited resources and significantly expands access to quality youth sports programming in Nashville's inner-city neighborhoods. Our return-on-investment approach ensures that every dollar and hour invested translates to measurable positive outcomes for children, families, and communities.



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