

## **Fifteen Youth-Serving Organizations to Receive 2010 CHAMPS Grants from Indiana Sports Corporation**

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**INDIANAPOLIS, IND.** – Fifteen youth-serving organizations throughout Indiana have been selected as CHAMPS (Champions in Life) Grant recipients, awarded annually by Indiana Sports Corporation.

CHAMPS Grants support organizations that provide underserved youth with the opportunity to participate in sports and fitness activities and teach life skills. The CHAMPS Grants are funded by net proceeds of the annual Youthlinks Indiana Charity Golf Tournament, as well as direct contributions from many generous organizations like Community Health Network Foundation, Conseco and Samerian Foundation.

Grants were awarded to organizations serving youth in the following counties: Allen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Marion and Vanderburgh. In order to be eligible to receive a grant, an organization located in the applicant's county must participate in the Youthlinks Indiana Charity Golf Tournament.

Since 1988, Youthlinks Indiana has generated over \$5.9 million dollars that have been put back into the community to support various youth sports programs and initiatives. A total of 214 youth-serving organizations have received more than \$1.8 million in CHAMPS Grants since then. This year's CHAMPS Grants are divided among 15 organizations that serve over 1,600 youth.

"It is truly an honor for Indiana Sports Corporation to again present CHAMPS Grants to deserving organizations who provide such wonderful programming for youth," Indiana Sports Corp President Susan Williams said. "Each of these groups is investing in the future health and success of young people throughout Indiana. The youth participating with these 15 organizations are receiving this extra financial boost as a result of the generosity of the companies who participated in Youthlinks in 2009. We congratulate each of these amazing organizations for their service to youth."

The 2010 Michael G. Browning CHAMPS Grant recipient is Positive Swing, Inc.'s *Swing Into Summer* golf clinic. In its third year, the Michael G. Browning CHAMPS Grant is awarded to a youth-serving organization with a focus on teaching golf to underserved youth. Browning, co-founder of Youthlinks Indiana and a member of the Indiana Sports Corp board of directors, has been an avid supporter of Indiana youth. Browning served as the Chairman of Youthlinks Indiana from 1988 to 2005.

The Community Health Network Foundation CHAMPS Grant has been awarded to the Wheeler-Dowe Unit of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indianapolis. The Indianapolis Rowing Center is the recipient of the Conseco CHAMPS Grant. Day Nursery Association of Indianapolis, Inc. was presented with the Samerian Foundation CHAMPS Grant.

The 2010 Youthlinks Indiana Charity Golf Tournament, co-presented by Indiana Sports Corp and Indiana Black Expo, celebrates its 23rd anniversary on Monday, June 21, at four premier central Indiana golf courses.

The 2010 host courses are Broadmoor Country Club, Crooked Stick Golf Club, The Sagamore Club and Woodland Country Club. The Pathfinder Awards will take place in conjunction with the golf tournament and will be held at Conseco Fieldhouse on Sunday, June 20. The awards banquet honors individuals from the world of sports who demonstrate a commitment to serving youth. Peyton Manning and Ron Hunter, among others, will be recognized.

For more information on Youthlinks Indiana or to purchase a golf package or Pathfinder Awards tickets, contact Chris Brelage at (317) 237-5035 or [chris.brelage@indianasportscorp.com](mailto:chris.brelage@indianasportscorp.com).

### **2010 CHAMPS Grant Recipients**

#### **Boys & Girls Clubs of Indianapolis, Keenan Stahl Unit – Karate Fitness**

Karate Fitness will provide youth with experiences to enhance many life skills, such as self-reliance, self-esteem, personal strength and character building. Members will learn basic moves and routines (kata), as well as Japanese vocabulary and dogo etiquette, promoting a sense of usefulness, belonging, competence and influence. Members will enhance these skills under the guidance of an instructor with a six degree black-belt.

#### **Boys & Girls Club of Indianapolis, Liberty Park Unit – Taekwondo**

Taekwondo is a martial art that encourages mental and physical strength while increasing one's self-esteem and fitness level. The Liberty Park Unit partners with Oriental Martial Arts College of Indianapolis to provide an instructor for their course. Sessions will occur two days per week with one-hour classes for each age group: 6-8 and 9-12. Members will begin the program learning basic moves and routines, as well as martial art vocabulary and etiquette.

#### **Boys & Girls Clubs of Indianapolis, Lilly Unit – Lilly Boys & Girls Club Boxing Fitness**

The Lilly Boys & Girls Club Boxing Fitness is designed to give teens and adolescents a chance to relieve pent-up frustration, stress and energy in a positive way by focusing on the training regiment of boxers. Through workouts and training sessions, discipline and confidence will help the youth to mature and grow as young adults.

#### **Boys & Girls Club of Indianapolis, Wheeler-Dowe Unit – Swimming All-Stars**

##### ***\*\*Community Health Network Foundation CHAMPS Grant recipient***

Swimming All-Stars will be offered during the summer and fall, with each course sharing the same format. During the first session, the skill level of each participant will be evaluated by instructors and participants will be assigned to a beginners or intermediate group. Participants in the beginners group will learn basic skills, such as floating and water safety. The intermediate group will learn competitive strokes, turns and dives. Each participant's swimming accomplishments will be recognized prominently.

#### **Camptown, Inc. – Wilderness Adventure Club**

The Camptown, Inc. Wilderness Adventure Club is a program targeted to reach children and prepare them for a healthy, athletic outdoor lifestyle in order to lead youth to a better path by providing physical, mental and spiritual growth opportunities in community with caring adults. The after-school program consists of 1-2 hours of classes followed by wilderness sports like hiking, camping and canoeing. Each class demonstrates life skill concepts such as respect, leadership, nutrition and prioritization.

#### **Damar Services, Inc. – Damar Special Hockey**

The Damar Special Hockey program teaches children the rules and safety protocols of ice hockey, in addition to improving a variety of skills involved with the sport. Damar clients will work closely with experienced ice hockey instructors that will volunteer their time. Several other special needs children outside of those served by Damar will also participate. Damar's Special Hockey team expects to play in at least five games during the 2010-2011 program. "The Twisters" will play against other local hockey teams for special needs children and the teams will play three 20-minute periods. Games and practices will be held at The Arctic Zone.

#### **Day Nursery Association of Indianapolis, Inc. – Day Nursery Summer Health and Water Safety Program**

##### ***\*\*Samerian Foundation CHAMPS Grant recipient***

This program promotes healthy physical activities and nutrition combined with self empowerment for the children enrolled at Day Nursery's seven centers. The 4-6 year-old preschool children will take part in swimming lessons and 3-6 year-olds participate in personal safety/martial arts and creative dance. All

participants will be exposed to healthy eating choices with fresh local produce providing long term influence on the children.

### **Indianapolis Rowing Center – Rhodius Rows**

#### **\*\*Conseco CHAMPS Grant recipient**

Rhodius Rows provides low income and minority teenage girls the opportunity to improve their physical fitness, explore nature, improve their communication and teamwork, while also exposing them to point of higher education access. Rowing is a full body, low impact sport that can be enjoyed by participants throughout their lives. Rowing requires functioning as a team, personal discipline and exposes the participants to a new sport with a new vocabulary in a unique setting. Because a boat moves through the synchronicity of the oars, the girls are required to work together.

### **Jameson Camp – Outdoor Fitness**

The Outdoor Fitness program serves teens typically from low income families. Veterans of Jameson Camp can participate in a special trip involving hiking and backpacking. The campers are constantly busy planning their route, making their own meals, setting up camp, and participating in strenuous physical activity. A special camp is also offered for children whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS. Both programs provide outdoor education and leadership.

### **John H. Boner Community Center, Boner Summer Camp – Fit for Life**

Fit for Life is designed to teach kids basic water safety, swimming and tennis. Each year there are tragic incidents where children drown or are seriously injured in water accidents; therefore, water safety is an essential skill. The physical activities and exercise offers teamwork and leadership opportunities when older and more skilled campers are paired with younger campers for practice.

### **Positive Swing, Inc. – Positive Swing’s *Swing Into Summer Golf Clinic 2010***

#### **\*\*Michael G. Browning CHAMPS Grant recipient**

Positive Swing’s *Swing Into Summer Golf Clinic 2010* has invited youth from the Concord Neighborhood Center and Damar Services to 20 sessions of golf instruction and play. The sessions will consist of a mixture of indoor driving range practice and outdoor golf course access. Each participant will receive his or her own set of new golf clubs, a new golf bag, golf balls, tees, golf gloves and sportswear to use during the 10-week clinic and take home to keep.

### **Riley Children’s Foundation – Camp Riley Accessible Cycling Program**

The Camp Riley Accessible Cycling Program provides tricycles for campers to increase their mobility, physical fitness, coordination, flexibility, and fun cycling with peers. Approximately 350 youth will attend Riley residential camps at Bradford Woods this summer. Planned sessions include traditional Camp Riley programs for youth with physical disabilities; and three medical specialty camps for youth with Down syndrome, blood disorders and craniofacial anomalies. Camp Riley is regarded as one of the best universally accessible residential camps in the Midwest, with 24/7 medical care for youth with disabilities.

### **Russell’s Paradise Karate Academy of the Arts, Inc. – Youth Intervention and Martial Arts Program**

The Youth Intervention and Martial Arts Program lasts 12 months and utilizes Karate and Taichi. The program includes physical activity, nutrition education, bully issues and anti-drug, alcohol and tobacco use education, along with workshops and activities that include positive family interaction. Practices in martial arts are recognized as helping youth become more confident and increase self-esteem as they learn to trust their own individuality while interacting with peers, school staff, families and communities.

### **YMCA of Greater Indianapolis, Baxter Branch – Try A Tri**

In response to increasing need in addressing childhood obesity and educating our youth on the importance of healthy lifestyles, the Baxter Branch YMCA has recently introduced a triathlon training program for children. This program is designed to incorporate education and activity for the participants while also making it a fun activity that they will want to continue into adulthood. Try A Tri will begin in the fall of 2010 and continue until the spring of 2011.

### **YMCA of Southwestern Indiana – Dunigan Outreach Programs**

The YMCA of Southwestern Indiana will offer two programs affected by this grant: SPLASH and Quickstart Tennis. SPLASH is a national YMCA water safety program for children ages 6-12 whose goal is to teach skills such as backyard pool safety, lake and beach safety, how to help someone in the water without putting their own life at risk and basic swimming skills. Quickstart Tennis is a nationally recognized curriculum introducing youth to the sport of tennis. Both programs would be presented during the summer.

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