

# INNER CITY YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUE PROGRAM

## 2011 BASEBALL PLAN



**Teamwork \* Sportsmanship \* Perseverance \* Integrity \* Trust \* Respect**

**TEACHING CORE VALUES AND LIFE SKILLS THROUGH THE FUNDAMENTALS OF BASEBALL**



## **HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION**

Unity Community Development Corporation is a not for profit corporation with a mission to improve the Quality of Life of the historically underserved residents of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Council Districts of Joliet by holistically addressing their needs in the areas of humans services and employment; education and recreation; housing and commercial development, neighborhood organizing, small business development and transportation.

## **SUMMARY**

**The Unity Community Development Corporation Inner City Youth Sports League Program** targets all youths of the neighborhoods within the targeted Joliet Districts 4 & 5, and surrounding area for youth between the ages of five and thirteen. The program is designed to focus on the youth, the parent and the neighborhood. Our primary goal is to teach and reinforce core values and life skills through the game of baseball.

## **PROBLEM \ SITUATION**

Children of underserved communities are plagued daily with affects of drug use and peddling, criminal activity sexual promiscuity and gang problems. The affects of these problems are now evidenced by school failures and drop out rates being at an all time high. The drop-out rate is the highest among the surrounding districts.

Local community organizations have attempted to address the problem by creating after school tutoring and recreational programs. However, there is a greater need to increase recreation and education programs.

Ongoing recreation has been proven to reduce crime help kids stay in school, and avoid the consequences of criminal behavior. Implementing core values and life skills can bring out the 'best' in a child and can literally change their life forever. Therefore these youth must be provided with positive experiences to help them stay in school and become successful in life. Core values and life skills reinforced through baseball can provide those experiences.

## **METHODOLOGY**

**Unity Community Development Corporation Inner City Youth Sports League program** will partner with residents, community organizations, and church's to recruit volunteer baseball (and other sports) participants who will play, manage, teach, coach and umpire the game of baseball while teaching and reinforcing core values and life skills. Youth will learn how to compete with character on and off the field.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Introduce core values and life skills that confront the challenges to adulthood
- Ignite hidden talents within the youth of underserved neighborhoods.
- Align youth with positive peers.
- Place vulnerable young people in a positive environment.
- Introduce sound principles that can help youth progress to the next level in their social development.
- Equip youth with a social skills which can provide a path for future leaders.

## **REQUIREMENTS/EXPECTATIONS**

- Registration and parental/guardian consent forms must be complete.
- All coaches and volunteers must attend certified training.
- Unity CDC will seek background check for all coaches
- Parents or guardians are expected to attend at least 1 baseball orientation.
- Parents are expected to assist program leads and coaches with driving the core values.
- All transportation will be responsibility of parent, guardian, or organizations.

## **Costs**

**\$25.00 per child for registration \$10 for each additional child**

Note: Inner City Youth Sports League Program is open to all interested youths regardless of their financial status as no kid who wants to participate in the program is turned down and is allowed to participate.

## **DIVISIONS**

- **Boys Baseball**
- **Girls Softball**
- **Ages 5-13**

## **SUPPLIES**

Parents are to provide Gloves, Shoes,

- Uniforms – T-Shirts & Caps will be purchased by Unity CDC
  - Baseball rules (concise)
  - Fielding
  - Hitting
  - Physical Conditioning
  - Rules of the Game
- Aligning baseball fundamentals with core values and life skills

## **CORE VALUES (Disciplines)**

- Sportsmanship
- Perseverance
- Integrity
- Trust
- Respect

- Teamwork

### **Baseball Fundamentals**

- Throwing
- Catching
- Pitching
- Hitting
- Running

### **Program Outcomes**

- Teamwork
- Diversity
- Community involvement
- Decrease school truancy
- Improved quality of life
- Improved social skills
- Inclusion
- Empowerment
- Pride
- Youth enrichment