

## Subrecipient Spotlight - Detroit PAL



Detroit PAL is a 51-year-old non-profit organization that teaches life lessons to youth through sports and youth enrichment programs. Their mission is to help youth find their greatness by focusing on being G.R.E.A.T. through goalsetting, resiliency, embracing healthy lifestyles, accountability, and teamwork. Detroit PAL works in partnership with the Detroit Police Department and the support of 2,000 volunteers to impact 14,000 youth every year. Detroit PAL offers 11 sports: Baseball, Softball, T-Ball, Soccer, Football, Cheer, Tennis, Golf, Basketball, Volleyball, and Track.

The City of Detroit Housing and Revitalization Department talked with Fred Hunter, Detroit PAL's Director of Program Administration about the impact that the Neighborhood Opportunity Fund has had on the organization. The City asked him what did receiving the Neighborhood Opportunity Fund award allow Detroit PAL to do that it wouldn't have been able to accomplish otherwise? He replied "The award allowed Detroit PAL to grow throughout the City of Detroit to provide quality programs that are affordable for children. The actual cost of programs is high when you consider the facility, equipment, and uniforms. The partnership gives youth in Detroit meaningful programs without the high cost. Detroit PAL serves youth ages 4-18, yet we know how important it is to start good habits when you are young. We have increased the number of children ages 4-8 in our programs."



The City also asked how did receiving the Neighborhood Opportunity Fund award prepare Detroit PAL for success in the future? Mr. Hunter replied "Detroit PAL has a focus on serving youth in every area of Detroit. The award allows consistency of funding which allows us to find the areas of most need. With the award, we can take our programs to areas that have not always had a variety of options for after school programs. The NOF award helps many youth and parents get access right in their community to positive sports programs."



Mr. Hunter shared the personal story of one of Detroit PAL's clients – Jacob. "Jacob has been playing soccer with Detroit PAL for two years now! He loves being a part of his team, especially when they help each other out when learning something new. 'Jacob has become more confident since he began playing in PAL,' said his mother. 'He has become more of a team player. This experience has helped to realize the success of his peers is his success as well.' Jacob and his teammates like to encourage each other by giving high-fives and telling each other that they played well. Jacob and his teammates definitely learned a lot from their coaches, who taught them that they have to have good sportsmanship."

Detroit PAL is an important part of the nonprofit ecosystem serving the children of Detroit. To find out more about Detroit PAL, please visit <https://detroitpal.org>