



## **DDF ALL-STARS Launches Afterschool Program at Five Centers in Washington, DC**

*Washington, DC Based Charity Receives \$358,300 in Funds Earmarked for Afterschool Enrichment Program*

WASHINGTON, DC (PRWeb) – November 3, 2014

DDF ALL-STARS, a non-profit youth organization, began launching its afterschool program in October, 2014, at five recreation centers in DC, thanks to a partnership with the DC Department of Parks and Receptions and funding by the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Early Learning (OSSE/DEL).

The purpose of the program is to ensure that all DC children have access to high quality early development programs and are well prepared for school.

According to the National Institute of Out of School Time, "The more engaged students were in supervised afterschool activities, the better they did on a range of academic, social and behavioral outcomes."

Enrollment, which began on September 22, is underway at these five sites:

- Columbia Heights Recreation Center (Ward 1)
- Harry Thomas Recreation Center (Ward 5)
- Rosedale Recreation Center (Ward 6)
- Deanwood Recreation Center (Ward 7) and
- Ferebee-Hope Recreation Center (Ward 8)

Enrollment will continue until the maximum of 30 students per site is met. An additional program will be offered for summer school students. Enrollment is administered by Eillah Spivey, program coordinator, who can be reached at 202-470-0025.

Students eligible for the program must qualify for TANF or the Free/Reduced Lunch Program. All services are free. Each day's activities include a free supper, homework and tutoring assistance, as well as enrichment activities.

The afterschool program is made possible by a grant of \$358,300 awarded to DDF ALL-STARS on August 21, 2014 by the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Early Learning (OSSE/DEL) to implement structured education and enrichment activities that serve children after school hours and during the summer.

"We are thrilled to have received this award from the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Early Learning," said Troy Williams, Executive Director of DDF ALL-STARS. "We've worked very hard to secure this grant because we believe strongly in early childhood development and we know that healthy habits need to be reinforced as soon as possible. We are confident that with OSSE's continued support, this program will be a homerun."

DDF ALL-STARS Afterschool is adapting its curriculum from:

- CATCH Afterschool Kids Curriculum for K-5th Grade
- We Can! Eat Play Grow
- We Can! Media Smart Youth

DDF ALL-STARS Afterschool will focus its curriculum on five core values:

- Nutrition
- Health
- Life Enhancements
- Education
- Sports and Activities

These five core values will be implemented through discussion, activities, field trips, and guest speakers with the goal of empowering participants to make positive lifestyle choices so that these children can go on to be well-rounded All-Stars in life.

*About District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Early Learning:* The mission of the Division of Early Learning (DEL) is to provide leadership and coordination to ensure that all District of Columbia children, from birth to kindergarten entrance, have access to high quality early childhood development programs and are well prepared for school.

*About DDF ALL-STARS:* The Diamond Dream Foundation (DDF), Inc., also known as DDF ALL-STARS, and commonly referred to as DDF, is a 501(c)3 non-profit established in 2007 to offer baseball opportunities to underserved children. The foundation is expanding its role in order to help children overcome childhood obesity, increase physical activity, achieve academic excellence, and develop a better sense of self-esteem and community. DDF's mission: "Creating a future of All-Stars by inspiring youth to live healthy and active lives."

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