



Coachable Moments:

A Newsletter for Think Detroit PAL Supporters

Events

School Track & Field Championships
 May 31; 10:00 am
 Central High School

Double the Difference Reception
 June 4; 5:30 pm
 Dr. Nellie Varner's

HS Basketball Championships
 (Girls & Boys)
 June 13; 10:00 am
 MTA High School

Track & Field State Championships
 June 20; 9:00 am
 North Farmington H.S

Board of Directors Meeting
 July 16; 8:30 am
 Think Detroit PAL

Paul W. Smith Golf Classic
 August 17; 8:00 am
 Detroit Golf Club

D. Duane Hurtt Golf Outing
 September 11; 1:00 pm
 Gateway Golf Club

Detroit Free Press Flagstar Marathon
 October 24, 7:00 am
 Campus Martius

Media Moments

[Think Detroit PAL & Detroit Tigers break ground to renovate youth baseball field](#)

[Helping Each Other](#)

[Steroid scandals noticed by Little Leaguers](#)

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It takes Coach McGhee a while to set up his bases before each game, not because of his age, but because this retired Detroit police officer is known as a talker.



Coach McGhee started coaching for the Detroit Police Athletic League nearly 22 years ago (before it merged with Think Detroit) when his oldest son was 4 years old because of a lack of coaches. "They told me, 'If you want your son to play, then you're going to coach,'" Coach McGhee said of PAL.

Since that time, Coach McGhee has ushered four of his sons through baseball. His son Jared now plays on his 14 & under team, while two of his older boys coach for him. Coach McGhee has taken a core group of players from t-ball through coaches pitch and on. This year, he moved them up to the 14 & under division.

First baseman Terrance Robertson, 13, was the first of Coach McGhee's players at the field that morning. The young man from Canton has played in Think Detroit PAL's baseball leagues for 8 years. While this is Robertson's first year with Coach McGhee, he speaks highly of him.

"He's a good coach," says Robertson. "He helps with the skills on the field. He knows the game."

After 22 years coaching, one might wonder what keeps bringing Coach McGhee back year after year. "It gets in your blood, coaching," says Coach McGhee. "Every year you get that fever right around spring time that you should be on the field."

Coach McGhee sees himself coaching long after his own sons are done playing because he loves the opportunity he has to work with Detroit's youth. "It's very satisfying to watch them learn the game and grow. Sports are the hook," says Coach McGhee. "You hook them with sports, then build character." Great coaches use sports as an opportunity to instill life skills in their players. Coach McGhee

is one of those coaches; he teaches them leadership and social skills as well as the importance of being gracious, win or lose.

Standing on a diamond at Jayne Park, Coach McGhee reflects on the many players he has seen grow. "We're saving kids lives and we don't even realize it," says Coach McGhee. "The future is looking bright."

Chris Clough
Communications Intern

Double The Difference Campaign

Join us at the upcoming kick off event!

Because of Think Detroit PAL's great work, the organization has received a \$500,000 matching grant from an anonymous donor. **As Think Detroit PAL raises money this year, all eligible donations will be doubled, dollar for dollar.**

To kick off the Double the Difference Campaign, Think Detroit PAL is planning a fundraiser at the home of Nellie Varner on Thursday, June 4th. We hope you will join us as a Host of this great event.

[More on this event>>](#)



Think Detroit PAL and Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries Partner to Improve Ballfields



Think Detroit PAL is partnering with Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries to maintain fields for local soccer and baseball teams.

Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries will cut the grass at Jayne, Maheras, Ft. Wayne, Milan and Peterson parks for Think Detroit PAL to use for its programs. By cutting the 150 acres of park space, DRMM is helping Think Detroit PAL save about \$100,000 annually.

"We are thankful and mindful that DRMM has stepped up to the plate to partner with Think Detroit PAL to cut the grass," said Lawrence Hemingway, chief operating officer of Think Detroit PAL. "It's about creating a safe environment for kids to play in the community," said Hemingway.

[More>>](#)

Donated Uniforms Help to Transform a Community

Nike and Adidas donate thousands of uniforms to Think Detroit PAL

Youth sport teams wearing brightly-colored uniforms are a sure sign of a community that works. For a 12-year-old, days when he or she gets to put on a brand new uniform and take the court are like group hugs from the community.

Recently, Nike donated approximately 500 baseball uniforms, valued at nearly \$30,000.

Additionally, Adidas donated coach polos, uniforms, and soccer gear valued at nearly \$20,000. Both donations are greatly appreciated and will help to make Detroit a great place to be a kid and raise a family.

The Detroit Tigers Foundation Awards Think Detroit PAL \$20,000

Think Detroit PAL is the recipient of a \$20,000 grant which will continue to help grow the volunteer coaches who provide leadership and mentoring to the nearly 1,100 children in Think Detroit PAL's baseball, softball & T-Ball programs.

The grant award will fund the training of baseball, softball and T-Ball volunteer coaches for Think Detroit PAL. Think Detroit PAL requires all volunteer coaches be properly trained in the organization's IMPACT Coaches Training Program. The training program teaches coaches how to use the youth sport experience to build character in young people.



Thanks for helping to make Detroit a great place to be a kid & raise a family!

Sincerely,

Think Detroit PAL