



LISC
SPORTS & RECREATION



GRASSROOTS
Field Grant Program in partnership with LISC

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SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT, NFL/LISC GRASSROOTS PROGRAM, AND TENNESSEE TITANS GRANT \$500,000 TO MEMPHIS SHELBY PAL FOR FIELD RENOVATIONS AT MEMPHIS' CHARLES GREENHILL STADIUM

MEMPHIS, Tennessee - The Sheriff's & Police Activities League of Memphis and Shelby County (Memphis Shelby PAL) has been granted \$250,000 by the Tennessee Titans through the National Football League Foundation Grassroots Program. The grant was matched with \$250,000 from the Shelby County Commission to fund field renovations at Charles Greenhill Stadium.

Both grants will be presented June 1, 2pm at Memphis Shelby PAL's Official Groundbreaking Ceremony. Speakers will include Memphis Shelby PAL Executive Director Craig Littles, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris, Shelby County Sheriff Floyd Bonner Jr., and Tennessee Titans Director of Marketing, Youth & Community Engagement Josh Corey. Construction of the turf field is also slated to begin in June 2023.

The NFL Foundation Grassroots Program — a partnership between the NFL Foundation and LISC, the nation's leading community development support organization — has supported the construction or renovation of 416 football fields nationwide since 1998. During that time, the NFL Foundation has granted nearly \$58 million to revitalize playing fields in underserved neighborhoods. The Grassroots grant to Memphis Shelby PAL is part of \$6 million in field refurbishment awards allocated this year.

Fields are newly built or significantly renovated, with improvements such as irrigation systems, lights, bleachers, scoreboards, goal posts, and turf. Grassroots grants are issued once established funding thresholds are reached for each project.

"Investing in young people drives our mission at the Tennessee Titans, and it is especially rewarding to see the community benefit from a new field to learn and play on," said Josh Corey, Tennessee Titans Director of Marketing, Youth and Community Engagement. "Renovated, upgraded facilities offer our youth an opportunity to tap into their full potential and talent, something we stand strongly behind as an organization. We look forward to Memphis welcoming the new Charles Greenhill Stadium."

LISC identifies local, nonprofit, and community-based agencies that have an interest in building or refurbishing football fields in schools and neighborhood parks. Through the program, local agencies are

provided with the necessary financing and technical assistance to improve the quality and safety of fields in their communities. The agencies oversee the construction, maintenance, and programming of the fields.

“This investment is much more than support for the installation of a new field,” said Kathy Moore Cowan, Executive Director of LISC Memphis. “The field renovation gift will assist the Sheriffs’ and Police Activities League of Memphis and Shelby County in promoting success for young people, while providing a refreshed asset that surrounding neighborhoods can enjoy. By contributing to positive experiences for youth, LISC Memphis is working collaboratively to prevent crime and improve quality of life in Frayser, Memphis, and beyond.”

Founded in 2017, Memphis Shelby PAL is an affiliate chapter of the National Police Athletics/Activities Leagues (NPAL) and aims to provide positive engagement opportunities for youth, ages 5-18 after school and in the summer months. All current program development efforts and offerings highlight education, mentoring, discovery, intervention, nutrition, and sports. More than 2,000 local youth benefit from sports-specific programs like tackle and flag football, cheerleading, track and field, baseball, basketball, soccer, and golf.

Funds will support an upgraded facility designed to serve youth sports efforts and other community events, as well as offer a safe place for community-based organizations to prosper. Memphis Shelby PAL acknowledges its partners in the success of this initiative including the NFL Foundation, Tennessee Titans, LISC Memphis, National Police Athletics/Activities Leagues, Shelby County Sheriffs’ Office, Memphis City Employees Credit Union, Memphis City Council, Shelby County Commission, United Way of the Mid-South, Barge Designs, and Musco Lighting.

“From the classroom to the football field, our youth deserve the best we can offer,” Shelby County Commissioner Charlie Caswell said. “It is a top focus of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners to invest in our young people and I’m excited to see the renovations at Charles Greenhill Stadium. I’m confident this investment will help mold our next generation of athletes and leaders while creating a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment.”

“This is truly a game changer! After three decades of community engagement, youth programming and non-profit leadership, I am still in awe of the commitment and resources Memphis Shelby PAL and its committed partners have been able to provide,” said Sergeant Craig Littles (retired), Founder and Executive Director of Memphis Shelby PAL. “Our partnership with the NFL Grassroots Program and Tennessee Titans will enhance the opportunities for families, organizations, businesses, and stakeholders to access a safe and functional space that supports the well-being of our youth and communities in Shelby County.”

About Memphis Shelby PAL

Memphis Shelby PAL is an independent, non-profit, juvenile crime prevention organization devoted to ensuring youth reach their full potential by serving as a vehicle to foster excellence through positive engagement during the most critical times, after-school, and summer months. We believe that every child is given unique gifts that can be actualized when given the proper tools and guidance. The mission of Memphis Shelby PAL is to provide school-age youth ages 5 to 18 the opportunity to develop their intellectual, social, and physical well-being in a fun, exciting, and safe environment; while promoting the prevention of juvenile crime and violence by building positive relationships among kids, cops, and communities. For more information visit www.memphisshelbypal.org

About the NFL Foundation

The National Football League Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of those touched by the game of football — from players at all levels to communities across the country. The NFL Foundation and its members, the 32 NFL clubs, support the health, safety and wellness of athletes, youth football, and the communities that support our game. For more information on the NFL Foundation, visit: www.NFLFoundation.org

About LISC

LISC is one the country's largest community development organizations, helping forge vibrant, resilient communities across America. We work with residents and partners to close systemic gaps in health, wealth and opportunity and advance racial equity so that people and local economies can thrive. Since our founding, LISC has invested \$24 billion to create more than 436,320 affordable homes and apartments, develop 74.4 million square feet of retail, community and educational space. For more, visit www.lisc.org.