

Pittsburgh Hardball Academy After School Program

*2023-2024 City of Pittsburgh STOP the
Violence Community Investment Grants*

Pittsburgh Hardball Academy

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FollowUp Form

Quarter Three Activities Update

Greetings, STOP the Violence grantees!

As the City of Pittsburgh prepares to update our stakeholders on the impact of this process, we need to gather some evaluation-focused information about your programs. Please answer the following survey about your services and activities from the third quarter following receipt of your grant award.

Thank you!

Organization Name*

Please enter the name of your project/program in the box below.

Pittsburgh Hardball Academy After School Program

Did you spend any of your STOP the Violence grant funds during this period?*

Yes

How did you spend the funds?*

Please check all categories that apply.

Staff Compensation (including benefits)

General Operations

If you chose "other", please describe.

Tell us how many people your organization/group served from the following age groups during this period.

Ages 0-17*

95

Ages 18-30*

10

Ages 30+*

0

Programs and Services*

Provide a brief description of any programs or services your organization or group provided in alignment with your STOP the Violence proposal.

During this period, we launched our After School program at the Pittsburgh Hardball Academy Training & Education Center, which operates daily to provide a safe, supportive environment for youth engagement after school hours. This program offers academic support, physical activity, and mentorship, contributing to our mission to reduce violence by engaging youth in positive, structured activities. Additionally, we hosted the Sayo Grays, a youth baseball team from Brooklyn, New York, for a special showcase event that highlighted the historic legacy of the Homestead Grays and emphasized community engagement. This event, a part of our "Stop the Violence" initiative, aimed to promote unity and provide a positive outlet for youth through sports.

Did you partner with any other organizations or groups during this period?*

Yes

Did your organization intentionally engage officers from the Pittsburgh Police during this period?*

Yes

Did you use STOP the Violence logos in marketing and media (social or traditional)?*

Yes

Give a brief description of your STOP the Violence during this period*

We used the STV logo on all marketing materials for the events and included Mayor Ed Gainey and Officer Michael Gay in the events.

Is your organization planning any public activities in the next few months?*

Yes

If "yes", please provide a brief description.

We will be hosting

Does your organization need capacity-building support?*

Yes

On what areas of focus would you like your capacity-building support?

Board Recruitment/Board Development

Fundraising

Share Your Stories*

Upload a clip or provide text to share one or more specific stories (please avoid using full names of clients/participants) that illustrates the impact of your work.

Hardball STV.jpeg

The Pittsburgh Hardball Academy hosted the Sayo Grays from Brooklyn, New York, for a multi-day showcase event at Greenway Field, blending baseball competition with community engagement as part of our "Stop the Violence" initiative. This event highlighted the history of the Homestead Grays, celebrating Pittsburgh's rich baseball legacy and emphasizing teamwork and resilience among youth.

Mayor's Involvement

Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey attended, throwing the first pitch and delivering an inspiring message on community and positive engagement. His presence underscored the city's commitment to reducing violence by supporting youth programs, reminding participants of the impact sports can have on personal and community development.

College Recruiting Opportunities

In addition to competition, the event provided valuable recruiting exposure, with college coaches on-site to scout talent and offer guidance. This aligns with Pittsburgh Hardball Academy's mission to expand access to college recruiting pipelines, especially for underrepresented athletes. Players gained insights into the college recruiting process and received advice on balancing academics and athletics.

Community Impact

This event was more than just a series of baseball games; it was an opportunity for youth to see firsthand how community support, discipline, and perseverance can lead to success both on and off the field. For the young players involved, having access to role models, like Mayor Gainey and the attending college coaches, reinforced the importance of setting goals and staying committed to positive, constructive activities.

By hosting the Sayo Grays and including a recruiting element, Pittsburgh Hardball Academy continues to provide opportunities that extend beyond sports, focusing on creating well-rounded, empowered individuals. The event embodied our mission of fostering a sense of community, responsibility, and leadership among the next generation, all while promoting the importance of diversity and inclusion within the sport.

Through this event, Pittsburgh Hardball Academy highlighted the transformative role of sports in uniting communities and empowering the next generation, laying the groundwork for more impactful programs in the future.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Hardball STV.jpeg

