

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Corey D. Smith Youth Football & Cheerleading Camp

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**FREE YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING CAMP HONORED THE LATE COREY D. SMITH, FORMER NFL PLAYER & COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER**

**RICHMOND, VA:** The Corey D. Smith Youth Football & Cheerleading Camp took place July 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> at Laurel Recreation Field. It was a two-day clinic that offered area youth the opportunity to receive instructional training in their choice of football or cheerleading. While the camp promoted healthy living and sportsmanship, it also served a dual purpose in honoring the memory of the late Corey D. Smith.

The Corey D. Smith Memorial Foundation was created in remembrance of Richmond native and seven year NFL veteran Corey D. Smith, who at a young age recognized education and opportunity as being the keys to success. The foundation's purpose is to provide undeserved youth with the means and opportunity to expand their academic and athletic potential through scholarship and other community outreach programs.

Yolanda Newbill, Corey's sister and founder of the Corey D. Smith Memorial Foundation, stated, "It is an honor and privilege to support the communities in the Richmond area and organizations such as the Laurel Athletic Association which helped my brother cultivate his dream of playing professional football almost 20 years ago. These are also the roots where his journey began in understanding the importance of balancing sports, nutrition, education, and healthy life choices, which are the same seeds our foundation aspire to plant along the way. We want to encourage our young people to "Dream Big" in work and play regardless of the challenges they may face from day to day. Corey's legacy and spirit lives on through the children we are able to reach in the communities that he called home."

*Continued*

*The Laurel Athletic Association honored former NFL player, Corey D. Smith, who was also a former Laurel Panther as a youth, by officially naming their mini youth football camp after him this year. The Corey D. Smith Memorial Foundation has adopted Laurel's mini youth football camp and awarded a scholarship, which will support under privileged youth who desire to participate in football and cheerleading at Laurel Park during the regular season.*

Area high school and college coaches, along with assistance from current and former NFL players, lead the camp. Campers and participants were provided with sport bags, lunch, snacks, and sports drinks throughout the duration of the camp. Campers also had an opportunity to hear from local sports figures and role models to inspire them to excel on the field, but more importantly, in the classroom.

The Corey D. Smith Memorial Foundation was awarded a grant in cooperation with former NFL player Emanuel McNeil, as part of the NFL Youth Football Camp Grant Program. Through the NFL Player Youth Football Camp Grant Program, grants up to \$4,000 are awarded to free youth football camps organized by current and former NFL Players. This program recognizes NFL players who give back to communities in their hometowns or team cities through football-related instruction and positive life skills programming. In 2010, the YFF contributed more than \$500,000 to this program allowing NFL players to set positive examples for today's youth by emphasizing sportsmanship and involvement in community-wide charitable projects.

#### **About The NFL Youth Football Fund**

Established in 1998 by the NFL and the NFL Players Association, the NFL Youth Football Fund seeks to use football as a catalyst to promote positive youth development, support youth and high school football needs nationwide and also ensure the health of grassroots football in future generations. Through the YFF's youth football initiatives and support programs, youngsters are provided with opportunities to learn the game of football, get physically fit and stay involved in productive after-school activities with adult mentors.

If you would like more information on the Corey D. Smith Youth Football & Cheerleading Camp or the Corey D. Smith Memorial Foundation, please visit [www.coreysmithfoundation.com](http://www.coreysmithfoundation.com) or contact Jonathan Mayo at (804) 677-3694 or [jmayo@availse.com](mailto:jmayo@availse.com).

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