

The Overbrook Monarchs

Request to
NFL Grassroots Program

For General Field Support

Amount: \$_____

Who are the Monarchs?

The Overbrook Monarchs are a non-profit association designed to serve economically disadvantaged youth in Philadelphia and surrounding areas by offering sports programs that develop character and leadership. Since inception in 2002, the Monarchs have strived to promote educational and community outreach, mentorship, and diversity through athletics and social interaction.

Many of the neighborhoods in Philadelphia and surrounding areas lack school or city-funded sports programs. The Overbrook Monarchs were created to address that gap in youth services. Because of the Monarchs, the youth in Philadelphia now have access to sports programs year round.

Although the Monarchs use organized sports as the magnet to attract youth, Monarch coaches devote a great deal of effort to helping youth develop character and leadership skills. Today's urban environment is a jungle of dangerous opportunities such as drugs and gangs. As an antidote to these negative activities, the Monarchs offer mentoring through the Monarchs to Men initiative. This program focuses on helping young males realize that no matter what their circumstances, they can cultivate their hidden talents to create success in their academic and personal life. At least 85% of Monarch youth participants come from single parent homes; therefore, there is a strong need for the players to build a connection with a father figure who can provide guidance as they face new challenges in life.

Young people register for Monarch teams on a voluntary basis. The practice fields are located in Overbrook, but youth come from 26 different zip codes across the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Some players take buses and trains from as far away as Camden because there is no comparable program where they live. Also, many youth are referred to the Monarch program by schools and churches. Although 95% of the students come from low-income families, they are willing to make the financial sacrifice of paying for transportation because the program is such an exceptional opportunity. Currently, approximately 20% of the youth come from immigrant families, and 80% are of African-American heritage.

The Monarchs offer football teams from 55 pounds through 105 pounds as well as two classes of basketball teams. Players can be as young as five when they begin participating, and they can continue playing until they enter middle school. Although most participants are male, the Monarchs also serve female players who want to participate in the football and basketball teams. In addition, the Monarchs offer a rigorous cheerleading program that offers the same degree of mentoring and discipline as the other sports teams.

With the help of over 100 coaches, the Overbrook Monarchs currently serve more than 600 youth. In addition to winning games each season, Monarch players develop into athletes who are

successful both on and off the field long after their time with the Overbrook Monarchs. The NFL Grassroots Program grant would provide the Overbrook Monarchs with the opportunity to make capital improvements that would allow the Overbrook Monarchs to continue serving economically disadvantaged youth as well improve the quality of the programs by increasing safety and sustainability.

Why should you support the Overbrook Monarchs?

The Overbrook Monarchs serve underprivileged youth in Philadelphia and surrounding areas. As previously stated, players travel from 26 different zip codes in the Philadelphia metropolitan area to play on Monarch teams. Some youth travel as far as Camden, New Jersey to participate in this program. These areas lack school and city-funded sports programs, but the Overbrook Monarchs recognize the value of organized sports and strive to provide positive opportunities in an area that is overwhelmed with negative activities.

Philadelphia has a 54 per one thousand resident crime rate, which is one of the highest crime rates in the nation. Within Pennsylvania, 96% of all communities are safer than Philadelphia. In addition, 25% of the residents have an income below poverty level, and 66.7% of those families consist of single-parent homes with no male present. Also, 32.9% of children in Philadelphia are living below the poverty level.

In addition, Camden has a crime rate of 85 per one thousand residents. The city is repeatedly listed in the top 10 of the 100 most dangerous cities in America. These crimes aren't just petty thefts. Data shows that Camden has one of the highest violent crime rates in the nation. In addition to high crime rates, Camden struggles with poverty. In the city, 35.9% of residents have income below the poverty level. In the whole state of New Jersey, only 9% of residents have incomes below the poverty level. The majority of those living below the poverty level in Camden are of immigrant and African-American heritage. In addition, 69% of those families below the poverty level are single-parent families with no male present. As if those numbers aren't depressing enough, 53.6% of children living in Camden are living below poverty levels compared to 13.2% of children statewide.

The Overbrook Monarchs realize that organized sports provide more than just fitness. Organized sports provide confidence, identity, discipline and socialization. These are the things that the youth of Philadelphia and surrounding areas need. These are the skills and characteristics that give youth the ability to overcome their circumstances and develop as strong individuals. These are the goals of the Overbrook Monarchs.

How will the Overbrook Monarchs use funds provided by the NFL Grassroots Program?

If awarded, the Overbrook Monarchs will use the funds provided by the NFL Grassroots Program to update the football fields and concession area. The fields are used for practice, home games, track and field events and team events such as fundraisers. The budget for this project is \$____,

which includes the cost of freight and installation assistance. The Overbrook Monarchs Association is very important to the local community, especially the youth. Also attached are letters from players and community members who support this project.

The field renovations will ensure the future of the Overbrook Monarchs and will allow the organization to continue improving the lives of children. While the immediate results will be improved safety and quality, the extensive results include strong leaders who will change the future. Sports are the magnet, but empowered youth are the goal.

While the Overbrook Monarchs set seasonal goals, the association always considers the long term. The organization wants to help youth for years to come, and to do so, the Overbrook Monarchs have developed a maintenance and sustainability plan to ensure the future of the fields invested in by the NFL Grassroots Program. The yearly maintenance budget is \$____. In addition to maintaining a safe, clean field, the Overbrook Monarchs has set fundraising goals to ensure a fiscally healthy organization.

Overbrook, Philadelphia has been described as a “suburban-like environment,” but planners and residents agree that it could use more neighborhood-serving amenities. The field renovations fit perfectly into the current state and future goals of the area. Overbrook is a wonderful place for underprivileged children to spend time. It can provide an environment that is safe and nurturing. Despite the “suburban-like environment,” programs such as the Overbrook Monarchs are still needed. Children in and around this area need a place to grow and develop. They need an organization that provides positive socialization, self-esteem, identity and mentorship. They need a place that allows them to be children while at the same time preparing them to be strong adults.

The Overbrook Monarchs discovered the NFL Grassroots Program through a Google search. We decided to apply because we share the same goals: to improve the quality, safety and accessibility of local football fields while strengthening neighborhoods and providing children with a safe place to play and grow. With your investment, we can work towards those goals. Your donation of \$____ will do more than renovate a football field. It will change lives.

Appendix

501(c)3 Letter

Two Most Recent Audited Financial Statements

IRS 990

List of Board of Directors

W-9

Project Budget

Detailed Maintenance Plans

Field Renovations Plans

Program Budgets

Letters of Support