Kids, Cops & Community
Atlanta PAL Offers Innovative Programming During the Pandemic

Since 1983, Atlanta PAL has been offering traditional, in-person programming to youth in Atlanta, GA and the surrounding areas. Like many of us in March of 2020, Atlanta PAL found themselves needing to make some adjustments to daily routines and activities. As a result of shutdowns and closures, Atlanta PAL had to put in-person programming on hold for some time and get creative with how they were going to continue serving youth in the community and bring in new members.

With programming held predominantly after school and schools being closed, Atlanta PAL was able to think outside the box and bring their programming directly to the youth they serve. What started as ice cream socials using PAL vans to drive through neighborhoods to hand out ice cream to youth on hot summer days, the outreach evolved into socially distanced block parties in over six different neighborhoods throughout Atlanta. As the events gained awareness, church leaders and local officials also participated and helped provide PAL programming.

Despite all of the community outreach, Atlanta PAL staff saw a continued need for school while visiting the neighborhoods. With help from Atlanta Public Schools, the PAL was able to establish a satellite school in one of the local school gyms. A selection process was conducted to identify 37 youth in most need and each weekday, these youth were picked up from their homes in PAL vans and brought back to the satellite school where they were given breakfast before the school day. Atlanta Public Schools provided a desk, computer and any necessary infrastructure in order for each kid to learn throughout the day. Atlanta Public Schools also provided five teachers and three proctors to ensure each child was given the attention they needed to be successful.
Once the school day was over and before jumping back into the PAL vans to head home, the youth were able to participate in PAL programming like they would on a normal day and even learned new sports, such as golf and tennis, as they allowed for social distancing and followed CDC guidelines.

It goes without being said that many hands have helped make these opportunities possible for Atlanta youth who need it most. Sgt. Sims of Atlanta PAL would like to thank the volunteers who have been committed to the PAL program as well as Police Chief Rodney Bryant who is focused on increasing positive engagement among Atlanta's children and youth through the work of Atlanta PAL and provided the needed support from command staff.

Board Member Spotlight: Tony Reagins

About a year or so after joining Major League Baseball (MLB) as an Executive Vice President in 2015, Tony Reagins was introduced to National PAL CEO, Jeff Hood. As the two continued to get to know one another, Reagins became incredibly impressed with how Hood was working to reestablish National PAL and the efforts being made to provide opportunities for underserved youth in communities across the country. Being in the position he held with MLB, Reagins recognized a perfect opportunity to align with National PAL and had great interest in working with Hood to help both organizations engage and serve young people – as a result, an extraordinary partnership was created.

Now serving as MLB’s Chief Baseball Development Officer, Reagins has been a National PAL board member for nearly a year and a half. Knowing National PAL’s mission, working with Hood, and having seen the positive impact PAL programs had on his friends growing up, Reagins eagerly accepted Hood’s offer to join the Board, excited for the opportunity to enhance the relationship between youth and law enforcement in a constructive environment.

Recognizing the recent adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our youth, Reagins is looking forward to further strengthening his partnership with National PAL and joining forces in a more comprehensive manner when it is safe for everyone to be together in person again. Reagins states that, “this is a challenging time for young people with some of them dealing with loss for the first time whether it be family, economic or social interaction with their peers.” With that said, he wants to remind our youth that “brighter days are ahead and their safety is paramount, so it is important to do the things that help keep us safe and healthy, such as hand washing, so that we can be together at our PALs again soon.”
National PAL recently launched its new online store through SquadLocker and is extremely excited for this opportunity to showcase and be proud of the National PAL brand. The online store offers unique gear for men, women, young adults and youth and currently offers special pricing on a variety of apparel, including limited edition “Voices of Youth” t-shirts, hoodies and pullovers, shorts, headwear, bags and face coverings.

Items shown in the online store are different from anything that has been offered previously and feature creative designs with outstanding craftsmanship on quality-made material. Each item can be either screen printed or embroidered, and can be shipped directly to your door.

We encourage our National PAL family, friends, guests and supporters to purchase their very own National PAL apparel in our online store. Upon receiving your orders, we ask that you please send us a picture of you sporting your new National PAL gear, as we hope to highlight select photos across our social media.

To purchase quality-made National PAL attire, check out our online store.
National PAL Training & Conference Update!

With several calls and emails pouring into the National PAL Office, we wanted to provide our membership, exhibitors, sponsors and guests with another update.

The National PAL Annual Training & Conference that was postponed to April 6 - 9, 2021 in New Orleans, LA, has now been postponed once again. The new dates are August 16 - August 20, 2021, however, the conference will still take place in New Orleans at the exciting and centrally located downtown *New Orleans Marriott Hotel*.

Please know that National PAL, along with the Training & Conference Steering and Planning Committee, are hard at work, as we seek to make this year’s event the very best yet! You surely do not want to miss out on this year’s training as National PAL will be securing awesome training facilitators and presenters, hosting great networking sessions, scheduling thought provoking and engaging speakers, as well as, paying tribute to and honoring some highly impactful and recognizable persons. National PAL Cares will also continue its community service initiative by aiding, hosting and assisting some of the city’s homeless and underserved. Additionally, you would not want to miss our end of Training & Conference Star Studded Gala.

All of this makes for a very special, engaging and programmatic enhancing Training & Conference. We look forward to seeing each of you in August. Please be on the lookout for a registration link, as well as the hotel registration passkey in the near future! Until then...Be Safe and Mask Up!

SAVE THE NEW DATE

**2021 NATIONAL PAL ANNUAL TRAINING & CONFERENCE**

**AUGUST 16 - 20, 2021**

For registration details, please visit [www.nationalpal.org](http://www.nationalpal.org).
Martin County PAL is Making a Difference in Their Community

Martin County PAL in Palm City, Florida has grown significantly since starting a Chapter from scratch in 2017. Originally, there was not an existing PAL in the area. Martin County PAL was able to partner with the Martin County Sheriff’s Office and began leasing a small space of about 1,200 square feet, serving nine youth through their boxing program.

As Martin County PAL continued to gain exposure, their program also grew. After the first year, a local veteran’s post called to donate money and with the funds, Martin County PAL was able to purchase a boxing ring, allowing the number of youth served to grow from nine to 30. At the same time, Martin County PAL also created and established a leadership program (as Noel DelValle, Executive Director, is a John Maxwell certified speaker, coach and trainer). Seeing the success of the leadership program, Martin County officials were even more pleased with the PAL and started sending youth from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Health programs to attend and participate in the PAL programs.

Fast forward to today, where within the past month, Martin County PAL has continued expansion of their chapter programming, partnering with an organization that offers mental health services and vocational training to youth in the community. This is more important now than ever as Martin County PAL, along with the rest of the world, has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. With so much uncertainty and the limited activities for youth in which to participate in due to closures, this partnership ensures that youth are able to continue to get the help and support they need. Not only does this partnership allow opportunities for Martin County PAL youth, but has also allowed more than 80 kids from the mental health and vocational training facility to participate in PAL programming. In just the single month, the partnership is proving to be extremely beneficial to youth throughout the Martin County Community.

With the continued growth, Martin County PAL is currently underway in developing a new facility in the Golden Gate area of Stuart, Florida. The building will be over 10,000 square feet and consist of a full weight room, multiple classrooms, lounge area, wrestling mat, boxing ring and much more. Not only will the new building offer youth new programming opportunities, but is centrally located so that kids are able to walk and bike to the building, making these opportunities more accessible, in an effort to reach more youth and strengthen the positive impact being made throughout the community.
National PAL is thrilled to announce that we were selected to be one of the participating charities in this year’s Birdies for Charlotte Charities (BFCC) during the 2021 Wells Fargo Golf Championship at Quail Hallow Club on May 3-9, 2021. BFCC is a philanthropic platform that utilizes the excitement around the Wells Fargo Championship to help non-profit organizations in the Charlotte area raise awareness and funds to support their missions.

As a participating charity, National PAL will be given the opportunity to generate contributions for our organization based on the number of “birdies” made by PGA TOUR professionals during the tournament.

Not only are we excited for the opportunity to receive funds for our organization, but to raise awareness for our program and share our mission as the world’s foremost leader in engaging kids, cops & community. Please pass along to NPAL family, friends and supporters!

Anyone can donate by making a pledge of one cent or more for every “Birdie” made by the PGA TOUR Pros during the Wells Fargo Golf Championship. If 1,500 birdies are made during the 2021 event (in 2019, there were a total of 1,434 birdies made during the Wells Fargo Championship), here are the totals for some typical pledge amounts:

- 1 cent pledge = $15 total pledge
- 3 cents pledge = $45 total pledge
- 10 cents pledge = $150 total pledge
- $1.00 pledge = $1,500 total pledge

BFCC will make an additional contribution equaled to 5% of our fundraising total. If you do not want to make a pledge tied to birdies, individuals can also make a flat donation with a minimum of $20. You can donate now by filling out the pledge form.

For additional information on this special opportunity we are proud to be a part of, visit www.wellsfargochampionship.com/charity/birdies-for-charlotte-charities.