



Memphis Grizzlies Press Release

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Memphis Grizzlies Center Sportsplex for Area Youth Opens

The Memphis Grizzlies and Memphis Athletic Ministries announced the grand opening of the Memphis Grizzlies Athletic Center at Memphis Athletic Ministries (MAM) Sportsplex today during a press conference at the new facility. Funded in part by a \$1.5 million donation from the Memphis Grizzlies Charitable Fund, the new facility will provide inner-city youth a safe, recreational place for basketball programs throughout the year.

The Memphis Grizzlies Charitable Fund also announced an additional \$500,000 donation to MAM to be used towards operational costs of the facility. To date, MAM has received a total of \$2 million from the Memphis Grizzlies towards the construction of the state-of-the-art basketball and recreational facility, making MAM the primary beneficiary of the Grizzlies' focus on sport and grassroots basketball development.

"It is extremely important for the Grizzlies to not only be a member of the community, but also take an active role and make an impact within our city" said Grizzlies President of Business Operations Andy Dolich. "Through our partnership with MAM, the Memphis Grizzlies Athletic Center will serve as an immediate resource to not only mentor our youth through basketball, but also serve as a solid foundation to develop the lives of future generations."

In addition to the team's \$2 million gift to MAM, the Memphis Grizzlies have actively supported MAM's basketball programs by hosting clinics for young athletes and coaches, providing tickets to Grizzlies home games and coordinating special appearances by Grizzlies players. MAM's basketball leagues are also affiliated with the Jr. NBA/Jr. WNBA as a result of the support received from the Memphis Grizzlies.

The Memphis Grizzlies Charitable Fund was established in December 2001 by the Grizzlies' ownership group with a mandate of making grants available to organizations and charities that enrich and enhance the lives of the people of Memphis and Shelby County. Since its inception, the Grizzlies Charitable Fund has donated more than \$10.5 million to organizations including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis, the Women's Foundation, BRIDGES, Memphis Athletic Ministries and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Memphis Athletic Ministries' mission is to partner with local organizations, schools and community groups to give inner-city, at-risk young people alternatives to the streets by providing a supportive atmosphere to play sports through the MAM Partners with trained volunteers serving as role models.

"MAM's partners play a strong role within urban neighborhoods of Shelby County in delivering spiritual, educational as well as economic services to their members," said MAM President Gib Vestal. "By providing the necessary infrastructure, MAM augments the partners' ability to reach children through athletics. We are very grateful to have the Memphis Grizzlies as a community partner, and know that this will enable us to reach and improve the lives of thousands of children."

MAM currently partners with 54 inner-city faith-based organizations/churches and six inner-city schools, plus 67 non inner-city organizations/schools, leveraging the adult human resources in order to positively impact young people through MAM's programs. These partners provide coaches, tutors and trainers who develop "one-on-one" mentoring relationships with the children