

Lions for Hope Sports Complex

Athletic fields and programs for the children of
Chicago's North Lawndale and
East Garfield Park communities

Chicago Hope Academy 2015 Rugby State Champions



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The development of this sports complex presents an unprecedented opportunity for Chicago to improve a currently vacant plot of land to benefit children, families and businesses in the redevelopment of two currently under resourced communities.

MISSION

To build athletic fields and develop programs for the children of Chicago's North Lawndale and East Garfield Park communities. Through rugby and other sports, we will expand life opportunities for the area youth to increase their social capital. This project is to not only enhance the community but also to give children a safe haven in the neighborhood.

VISION

The Lions for Hope Sports Complex will provide a safe place for the community to gather. Athletic fields will provide at-risk children the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports and extracurricular activities within their own community. Athletics and education come together by forming partnerships with local schools and community organizations to provide mentoring programs that encourage children to stay in school.



Lions for Hope Sports Complex

In creating a premier multi-use sports complex in one of Chicago's most under resourced neighborhoods, the Chicago Lions make a bold commitment to provide mentoring through athletics as an alternative to gangs and guns.

- Two artificial turf lighted fields for rugby, soccer, lacrosse and football as well as areas for golf, baseball and other programs
- Seating for the main field (capacity 3,000)
- Fieldhouse with a range of amenities for players, guests and community
 - Main room capable of hosting a wide range of events
 - Commercial kitchen
 - Deck or viewing area with visibility to both fields
 - 4 locker rooms with showers
 - Multi-purpose rooms (weight room/athletic trainer)
 - Concession stand
- Dome East field for use throughout the winter



We will support this bold commitment by:

- Continuing our successful partnership with Chicago Hope Academy.
- Providing a facility for the Noble Charter Schools and other Chicago Public Schools for their outdoor athletics.
- Partnering with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago
- Providing a safe haven for youth in the neighborhood.
- Offering summer and holiday camps/activities to provide safe alternatives to gangs and violence.
- Developing a mentor program by partnering with existing programs and utilizing the CLCA network.
- Develop a grass roots rugby pathway for the surrounding community headed by the Chicago Lions' Director of Youth Rugby
- **Dome revenues will guarantee the self sufficiency of the complex and reduce reliance on annual fundraising.**



Visiting teams fear violence in the surrounding neighborhoods

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017 | CHICAGO (WLS) –

For a second time a high school football team is forfeiting a game against Chicago Hope Academy

The reason? Because of concerns about violence in the neighborhood where the games are played, visiting teams are refusing to attend games at Altgeld Park which is the home field for Hope Academy.

The game scheduled for Senior night this week was forfeited. Due to safety concerns, Bishop McNamara followed Wheaton's St. Francis as the second high school to forfeit following a September 29 shooting near Hope's home field, Altgeld Park, on the city's West Side. Hope was playing Providence when shots rang out."I feel like it's upsetting to this community because these were two games we were looking forward to," said Chicago Hope Academy Football Player Treville Hilton. "It's pretty devastating for our senior night to be cancelled for a random shooting that took place three weeks ago," said Chicago Hope Academy football player Najee Harris.



Why I gave one million dollars to this project...



As a physical therapist and athletic trainer my vision was to help as many people as possible. My first two clients were Francis W. Parker High School and Chicago Lions Rugby, who are still clients today. Working with these athletes, I recognized the need for a dedicated sports rehabilitation and physical therapy facility in Chicago which led to our first Athletico clinic opening in 1991.

As my practice grew and I moved on to more of a business development role, many others followed in my footsteps as the athletic trainer for the Chicago Lions Rugby Football Club. The message from these athletic trainers was always what I knew to be true, "they treated us like we were part of the team." In my experience, this is not the case with all organizations or relationships we have had over the past 27 years. This is the ethos of rugby: inclusion, camaraderie, respect, integrity and discipline.

When the Chicago Lions Charitable Association Leadership presented their plan it was right in line with the aforementioned ethos with one difference. This was about children in an under-resourced community, one in desperate need of a safe haven from the gangs, guns and violence.

As a 15 year board member and donator to Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago, I know full well the value of mentoring and positive role models. As an athletic trainer, I also know how organized youth sports can help guide children to the right path for a fulfilling childhood.

In closing, the \$1 million dollar donation from our Foundation is a start to build the Lions for Hope Sport Complex to promote well-being and enhance social capital, through athletics in the North Lawndale, East Garfield Park Communities. I hope others will join me in this unique and fulfilling endeavor.

Mark Kaufman
President of Mark and Mary Ann Family Foundation



Meet Our Partner in this project: Chicago Hope Academy



Non-denominational Christian high school striving for an integrated community ethnically, geographically, and economically by exposing students from different neighborhoods, communities, countries, cultures, incomes, and backgrounds to create well-rounded, empathetic and socially developed people.

- Founded in 2004 by Bob Muzikowski, former Columbia and Old Blue NY flanker.
- 210 students currently enrolled, 10:1 student: faculty ratio.
- Every graduate accepted into a college, university or post-graduate program.
- Emphasizes “Triangle Philosophy” – mind, spirit and body.
 - Mind: rigorous college prep curriculum, elective courses, clubs.
 - Spirit: bible study, chapel services, Mexico mission trip, mentorship.
 - Body: athletic programs, PE class, 14 teams, 2015 boys rugby State Champs.
- Receives no federal, state or local government funds.
 - 90% of students are on scholarship.



Noble Network of Charter Schools to utilize Lions for Hope Sports Complex



- Primary Lions for Hope Complex User.
- NNCS won 2015 Broad Prize, national award for top US charter school network.
- 11,000+ students, 17 college prep campuses in Chicago, students 98% minority, 89% low-income, 90%+ graduates matriculated into college in 2015.
- Noble Athletic Conference aims to create positive impact through athletics, including a robust and highly competitive boys and girls rugby program.

According to the US Department of Education, "[Noble] has an exceptional track record of helping low income and minority students attain significantly higher achievement and graduation rates. Further replication will benefit additional students and strengthen the Chicago Public Schools system."



Lions for Hope Sports Complex Fundraising Goal



Phase 1 (Funded)	\$1,600,000*
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Phase 2	\$ 3,000,000
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Phase 3	\$ 4,000,000
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Phase 4	\$ 2,700,000
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Phase 5	\$ <u>1,100,000</u>
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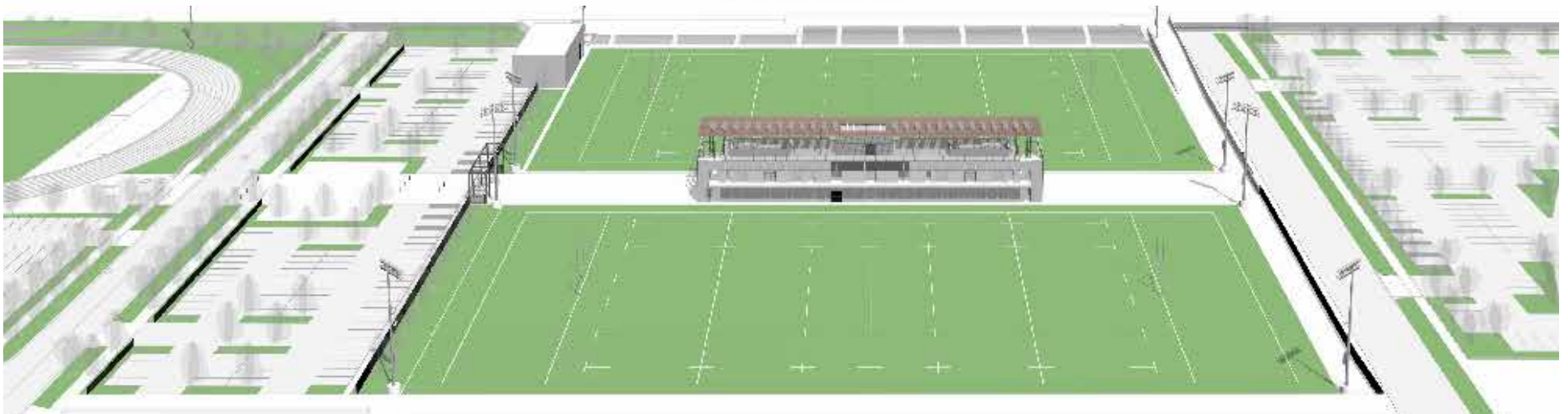
Total Remaining	\$ 10,800,00
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All amounts are estimated; Phases may change based on funding



*Land is co-owned by Chicago Lions Charitable Association (CLCA) and Chicago Hope Academy (CHA)

Phase 2: \$3,000,000



- Infrastructure including utility work, complex storm water management, parking lot.
- Construct the West artificial turf field including lights.



Phase 3: \$4,000,000



- Construct field house to include locker rooms, showers, restrooms, multi-purpose rooms and banquet facility.



Phase 4: \$2,700,000



- Construct East artificial turf field.
- Install foundation for dome.
- Construct bleachers on East railway embankment.



Phase 5: \$1,100,000



- Installation of seasonal dome for the East field.



Rugby - Opening doors for the inner city

Memphis Inner City Rugby

www.memphisinnercityrugby.org

South Los Angeles's ICEF Rugby Program

www.icefrugby.org/about.html

Play Rugby USA

www.playrugbyusa.com



Contact Us...

www.lionsforhopesc.org

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