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CFY exceeds over \$100,000 in Youth Athletic Grants for the first time in its 58-year history, including distribution of nearly \$50,000 in St. Petersburg.

Press Conference at Ferg's Sports Bar & Grill (1320 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, FL 33705) on Thursday, July 11th, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. EST. CFY Staff and members of the Board of Trustees will be in attendance, as well as Mark Ferguson, owner of Ferg's, St. Petersburg Police Chef Tony Holloway, and members of supported CFY programs.

CFY is the leading advocate of youth athletics in Pinellas County and continues to build on its mission of elevating the county's youth. For the first time CFY has exceeded over \$100,000 in its 4th cycle of giving, with a distribution of \$106,348 supporting 18 different youth athletic program requests, pending approval of the Board of Trustees meeting on July 10, 2024

"CFY's grant program funds thousands of participant registration fees, supports the purchase of equipment upgrades and safety measures, and assists qualified athletes striving to reach higher levels of competition on a regional/national level. This program offers community-based support to organizations who work with the under-served youth.," CFY Chairman, Fred Miller.

As CFY has expanded into South Pinellas County nearly \$50,000 of this distribution has been in the St. Petersburg area alone. This is due to the most recent partnerships with St. Petersburg Police Department and Ferg's Sports Bar & Grill. Each dollar donated has assisted in providing valuable support for eight programs in St. Petersburg/South County. In these programs, four are football & cheer programs with access being open to 35% of registered children by paying all or a portion of their registration fees. CFY also provides safety equipment (helmets and shoulder pads) and uniforms. Included in the distribution of \$106,348, CFY is providing Facility Enhancement Grants for the first time. These grants include two little league programs in the county totaling almost \$30,000 to support batting cages for young softball players and scoreboards for an entire complex in Oldsmar and Dunedin, respectively.

St. Petersburg Police Chief Anthony Holloway looks forward to CFY's expansion to serve all of Pinellas County. Reflecting on his time as a former member of the CFY Board of Trustees, he said, "I have always wanted to bring CFY's passion and support to the youth of St. Petersburg. Our goal is to ensure every child has access to high-quality programming, regardless of their financial situation. It's important that all our youth have the opportunity to learn teamwork, benefit from great mentors and role models, and develop essential life skills that will support them throughout their lives."

Established in 1972, CFY proudly supports youth athletics programs and organizations with an emphasis on skill-building activities, reaching over 15,000 Pinellas County youth annually and expanding. Funding efforts are aimed at providing the children of Pinellas County the opportunity to participate in their chosen activity unhindered by costs. CFY's Endowment allows that *every dollar that is donated goes 100% to supporting a child*. CFY continues to grow as we focus on three core areas: Youth Athletics Grants, Education and Water Safety. For more information, please visit our website at www.cfypinellas.org.