

Kids Enjoy 4-Week Basketball Academy

“Kids coming up today are not taught the fundamentals of the game.” Changing this was the vision of 1V1L Community Coordinators, Taiji Thompson and Darrell Goodwine. They invited kids from the North Side to participate in the four-week skills academy and they came by the dozens. Between 25 and 40 kids attended everyday and nobody was turned away. The kids ranged in age from 5-19 and were of all skill levels.

The Academy included basic conditioning, drills, and scrimmage play. The camp also provided lunch, water, and jerseys for the participants. The coaches were amazed at how much progress they’d made with the kids over the four weeks. “They really improved...along with their attitudes.”

The kids were also pleased with their progress. One young player admitted that, “Even though he’s a good player, he’s learned something from the camp.” A number of the kids stated if they weren’t in camp, they’d be hanging out at home or on the street.” Some said they’d still be playing, but not with any competition or coaches.

Since many of these kids have been flagged by the school district as kids who need 1V1L attention, just keeping them occupied is a win. The Academy ended with a day-long cookout and ceremony.

