



2025 Impact Report



“Equipping and Empowering Chattanooga’s Youth while instilling Life and Leadership Lessons through the Game of Baseball”



To all SYD Supporters

Thank you for your generous support of our mission in 2025. We are excited to share the impact of your giving and about what's next for SYD as we continue to deepen our investment into youth, transforming lives through baseball and mentorship.





About Us

At Southside Youth Development, we level the playing field by giving undeserved youth what they're missing: a field to play on, a team to belong to, and coaches who believe in them. Through the game of baseball, boys learn what it takes to win in life: how to show up, work with a team, handle failure, and push through when things get hard. We're not just teaching them how to hit and throw. We're teaching them how to lead, finish what they start, and believe their story isn't over. The result? They get adults in their corner, structure that keeps them safe, and a better shot at the future they deserve.



The Box Score

10U (Ages 8-10)

12U (Ages 11-12)

14U (Ages 13-14)



45

youth in the 2025 Summer Program



100+

contact hours per youth



1,000

meals served to youth



31

games against local competition



17

dedicated coaches and mentors



By the end of the season, all participating youth demonstrated growth in both their enjoyment of the sport and key life skills, including teamwork, respect for coaches and peers, commitment to their team, and the ability to resolve conflict without fighting. Youth also formed trusting relationships with their coaches—an impact echoed by parents, including one who shared,

“I am grateful for SYD because it gives my son something to look forward to, keeps him out of trouble, and provides father-like figures in his life.”





More Than A Game



At SYD, we believe baseball is more than a game. It's a training ground for life. Our coaches and mentors use baseball to give young people the chance to play, develop, and grow through practical instruction and guidance that helps them succeed, both on and off the field.

We have integrated a formal character development curriculum at the end of every practice and game to ensure that athletic skill development and character formation work together to form whole persons.



Through hands-on leadership and job-readiness training, SYD's internship program helps older youth develop the skills, discipline, and character that set them up for future success. This year's interns did a financial literacy class in partnership with Thrivent Financial Services and Hope for the Inner City.



Experiences

In 2025, SYD continued to give youth opportunities to experience life beyond their everyday routines. Through fun, educational, and memorable outings, we helped them explore new environments, build confidence, and create lasting memories with peers and mentors.



SYD took youth to the HBCU Swingman Classic in Atlanta during MLB All-Star Week



SYD did it's first ever overnight retreat at Camp Lookout



Pictures from the TN aquarium, 2025 Playball Clinic, and from Truist Park



Stronger Together

This year, SYD's community events served as gathering points where people came together to encourage and uplift our youth. From kickball to competitions to shared meals, these moments connected families, first responders, volunteers, and neighbors. We have witnessed the power of consistent presence, mentorship, and community to change the trajectory of a young person's life. Our hope is to see these connections continue to build a more unified and caring Chattanooga.



Home games
at Howard and
the Emma
Wheeler Field

MLB Pitch, Hit,
and Run & Playball
Clinic at
AT&T Field

Community
kickball game with
Chattanooga Fire
& Police
Department

End of season
community
banquet



Fall Baseball and Leadership

This fall, SYD launched an 8-week Baseball & Leadership program designed for 12 students. The program combined continued baseball skill development with intentional leadership formation, featuring guest speakers who shared on goal setting, overcoming adversity, teamwork, and self-discipline.



Former professional basketball player Tony Easley shared with our young athletes about the power of teamwork.

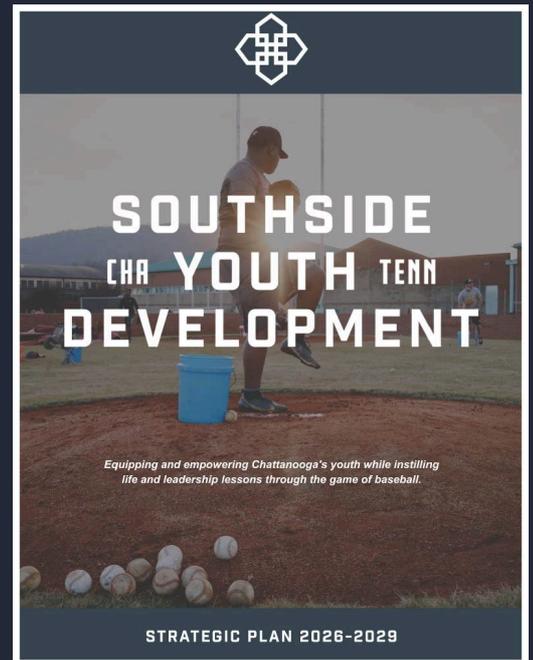
SYD Board Member and Howard Head Coach Jon Johnson spoke on GRIT.



What's On Deck

Building Upon SYD's five years of relationships, trust, and service to over 150 youth in the community, we have recently completed a rigorous four-month strategic planning process with the help of Mission Increase.

One of our main strategic priorities is to expand to year-round programming, covering athletic, academic, character, and social-emotional development. To achieve this, we plan to hire an Operations Manager in 2026 and continue strengthening our organizations systems and capacity to ensure long term success.



Stay tuned for more about our strategic priorities for 2026 and beyond.



Join Our Mission

We believe baseball can change the lives of young boys in Southside Chattanooga — but it takes a community to make it happen. When you join Southside Youth Development, you're not just supporting a game; you're investing in their future.

Give

Help fund equipment, uniforms, unforgettable experiences, and the staff who make it all possible.



Be a Fan

Come cheer on the kids at practice or games, and consider bringing a meal to share.

Pray

Sign up for our newsletter at SYDchatt.org to learn how to pray for our youth and their families.



Volunteer

Serve as a mentor or coach and walk alongside youth as they learn the game, and the lessons that apply on and off the field.

For more about how you can get involved with Southside Youth Development visit us at sydchatt.org

or

Contact Executive Director - Josh Harvey | 919.939.0495 | joshuaharvey2018@gmail.com