

2024 Impact Report

SOUTHSIDE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



“EQUIPPING AND EMPOWERING CHATTANOOGA’S YOUTH WITH LIFE AND LEADERSHIP LESSONS THROUGH THE GAME OF BASEBALL”





TO ALL SYD SUPPORTERS:

On behalf of the SYD team, we are thrilled to share the impact your generosity has had on the youth in our community during the 2024 season. This year marked significant growth and transformative experiences for 45 young athletes, and none of this would have been possible without your support.

ABOUT US

Southside Youth Development (SYD) is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering underserved youth in Southside Chattanooga through baseball, mentorship, and character development. Our vision is to foster a connected, safe, and thriving community where youth are active and empowered to reach their full potential. Through SYD's programs we seek to empower and encourage these young men and women to become the best students, future parents, friends, and community members that they can be, impacting future generations.

ON THE FIELD

3 Teams

10U (ages 8-11)

13U (ages 12-14)

16U (ages 15-16)

33 games against
local competition
8 Wins!!

Our youth were able to develop their baseball skills this season through practices, clinics, and games! SYD teams practiced 3 days a week at the Emma Wheeler Field and Howard High School throughout the summer. Youth were also able to compete in games against local competition.



SYD continued to host clinics during the fall to stay engaged with youth beyond the summer season.



SYD's inaugural win! 13U defeats Hixson 5-2

EXPERIENCES

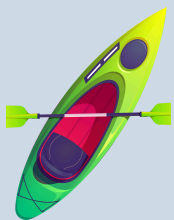
In 2024, our youth had the opportunity to experience a wide range of activities designed for education, expanding their horizons, and exposing them to new, exciting opportunities:



We were able to take the 10U team to the Aquarium. For the majority of the youth it was their first time ever getting to experience the Tennessee Aquarium!



The 16U team took a tour of Chattanooga State Community College. They were able to see the campus, learn about the different programs that are offered, and even had a chance to sit down with the baseball coach and ask questions about the program. The coach said that he was very impressed with how engaged the youth were, and the good questions that they asked.



In partnership with the Chattanooga Audubon Society, we were able to take the 13U team on a kayaking trip on the Tennessee River. It was all of the youth's first time kayaking! We paddled from the walking bridge to Maclellan Island and got to see the goats that were brought onto the island to eat the invasive plant species. The kids had a great time on the water!



The SYD teams were able to attend 2 professional baseball games including a minor league game at the Chattanooga Lookouts and an MLB game at the Atlanta Braves! Thank you to both the Lookouts and the Braves for donating tickets!







For the 4th year, SYD partnered with the Chattanooga Lookouts and the Howard School to host PlayBall Weekend at AT&T Field for more than 60 youth!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SYD continued to use the Emma Wheeler Field as a connection point for the **community** as people gathered to watch, support, and encourage the youth as they played. We believe and have seen how sports can connect a community as people encourage the youth to develop socially, emotionally, spiritually and physically. We pray to see a more connected community with access to structured events that promote the fostering of relationships across various zip codes in Chattanooga. We believe that when we intentionally connect as a community, we foster respect and mutual care, which promotes a safer and better Chattanooga.

6 Community Events

- Home games at Emma Wheeler field
- Community Kickball Game with Chattanooga Fire Department and Police Department
- End of year banquet





MENTORSHIP & CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

SYD has integrated mentorship into every facet of its program. Coaches, many of whom are local teachers, college athletes, or community members, not only teach baseball but also serve as role models, providing guidance on leadership, discipline, and life skills. This year the SYD coaches focused on teaching about **gratitude**, **teamwork**, and **respect**.



Kevin Tucker (above) interned with SYD this summer. Kevin lives in Emma Wheeler Homes and has played baseball with SYD for several years. This year he helped coach the 10U team, learned how to maintain the field, and also worked with Josh to pass the test for his drivers permit!



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You guys are the most encouraging team I have seen and you play with the best sportsmanship I have seen. It was an honor to lose to your team because you showed how baseball is supposed to be played.

- Parent on an opposing team

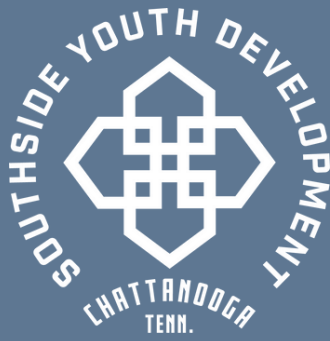
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FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

In partnership with the MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation, we were able to add a batting cage to the Emma Wheeler field making it one of the best quality youth fields in Southside Chattanooga!



We were also able to add bleachers so that parents and community members can come support the youth as they play.



JOIN OUR MISSION

Find a way to get involved in our mission to equip and empower youth through mentorship and baseball below:



- **Serve:** Help coach a team, provide a meal, or serve in another way that uses your gifts. Find ways to get involved at www.SYDchatt.org
- **Donate:** Online at www.SYDchatt.org or via mail to PO Box 227, Chattanooga, TN 37401
- **Pray:** Pray for God to continue working in the lives of the youth, coaches, and families of SYD through our programs.