



2020

Community - Action - Relationship - Empowerment- Solution

Giving Back To The Community

As the Coronavirus continues to surge and ravage our communities, the National Youth Sports Program found a way to give back and celebrate its fifty years on the campus of Case Western Reserve University. NYSP CARES - Community Action and Relationship Empowerment Solutions seeks to build and strengthen positive community relationships through voice, action, understanding, diversity of thought and experience throughout the Greater Cleveland area.

During the months of June and July, the NYSP CARES team collaborated with several area churches to distribute COVID-19 fanny packs filled with a mask, sanitizer, tissues and fever strip. The team reminded the community to practice safe distancing to help stop the spread of the virus. Community members were very appreciative of the efforts of NYSP CARES and its action toward the neighborhoods that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The NYSP CARES team is planning many initiatives to celebrate people, diversity and community within the next year.





From the Director's Desk



“Once You Stop Learning, You Stop Living”

Growing up in the decade of the sixties and seventies, I remember all the role models and mentors that we had as youths. I watched my father work two jobs a day to help put his five children through high school and then college. I watch my mother also hold down two jobs as a homemaker and as the family's educational professional. I remember how my neighbors on my street, my little league baseball and football coaches took time to teach and mentor me. I remember my teachers who taught me and all the seasoned relatives who served as mentors and role models to me.

As an adult today, I continue to watch and learn from numerous role models and mentors. I spend countless hours learning and listening to my neighbors, community leaders and workplace colleagues. I am always searching for wisdom and knowledge. My theme in life is very simple: once you stop learning, you stop living. We must provide the proper platform for our youths to learn and grow. Finally as adults, we must be role models and mentors and continue to listen to the voices of our youths.





Community Partners



Nicole Debose

Nicole Debose shares NYSP's passion for community growth and the desire to broaden education. As Ohio State University's Cuyahoga County Extension Director, and with over fifteen years experience in community and urban development, Nicole knows what she's doing.

After attending a meeting on food access for the youth and recognizing NYSP's common goals, she knew the partnership would be a good fit. *"When I found out more about the program and the youth that are served, I wanted to help and teach them the right lessons around nutrition..."* She recognizes the diverse audience NYSP serves and desires to reach out to that broadening base with tools to make healthy lifestyles choices.

Nicole recognizes the importance of reaching the inner city and greater Cleveland youths that experience educational disparities. *"They need to understand what everyone is experiencing and have a broader perspective."* Armed with this mindset, Nicole Debose awakened the NYSP staff and students to many new experiences, from trips to CWRU's Squire Valley Farm where they interacted with farm animals and learned to fly drones.



Giving Back



During a time of crises, NYSP is there to help offer emotional and material support. Yes, we are our brother's keeper.



NYSP distributed over 500 Covid-19 care packs within the Cleveland community.



Why do I give back?

"It gives me an opportunity to connect with our community even further. I am able to put a smile on someone's face. Show our community that they are not alone, and life isn't so bad because they are people in this world that do care. Humanity, love, and hope are still here; if we open our hearts to it. Hopefully, my good intentions may encourage others to do the same... Pass it on!"

Sheron Henry-Smith (20 Year Staff Member)



NYSP 2020

Why do I give back?

"Giving to others unconditionally provides a boomerang effect that creates a human connection while emanating a deep sense of spiritual fulfillment and humility. It's a feel good moment for all."

Carla Curtis (9 Year Staff Member)



2020



Lending a hand up

Voices of the Youth



Davon *"NYSP was a good experience. It felt good that when you're there it felt like [NYSP staff] wanted to have you there."* When twelve-year old Davon joined NYSP, he wasn't sure what to expect. He was glad that his mom accepted a position as a NYSP staff member. He especially liked playing basketball and appreciated being pushed to his limits. In fact, Davon enjoys basketball so much, that he aspires to play in the NBA. He credits Trevor, a NYSP staff member, for encouragement and taking the time to serve as a role model and mentor for he and his friends. *"I want basketball to be the gateway to helping people in life and give back to the community"*.

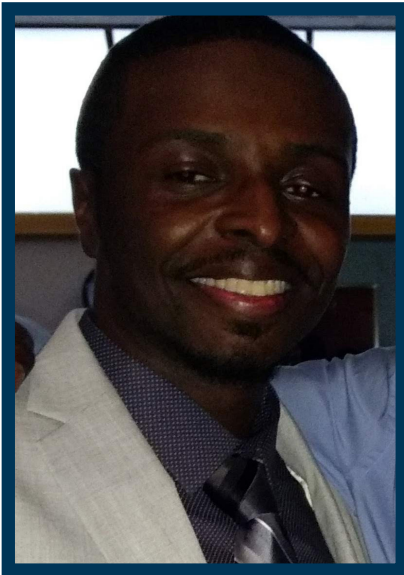


When Adatayo joined NYSP he was impressed by the challenges both on and off the court. He enjoyed the sports, but, even more, he enjoyed the community that pushed him to step out of his comfort zone and not be afraid of failure. *"NYSP challenged me to try new things."* He credits the program with helping him achieve a mindset that has influenced his decision to pursue professional podcasting. He hopes to develop a program that thrives on guest speakers and interviews to offer a wealth of perspectives on hot topics. Adatayo has begun laying the foundation for his podcasting career by meeting new people and learning more about their stories.





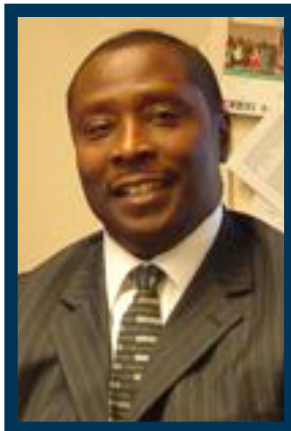
Where Are They Now?



Lawrence DJ Perry

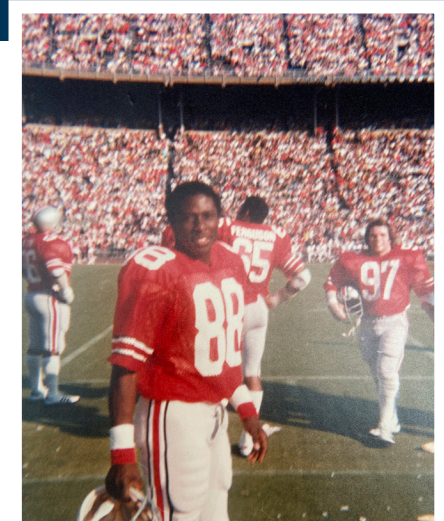
Capital University and Notre Dame College Alum Lawrence "DJ" Perry first got involved with NYSP as a middle school student at Kirk Junior High in East Cleveland during the early nineties. Years later, when he returned as a staff member, he was amazed at what NYSP had become. *"The defining moment is seeing the program as a student when it was like four sports to how Coach Harris took over--the vision that he had--I couldn't believe what he had done with the program."* Inspired by this vision, DJ went on to be a NYSP staff member for thirteen years. Currently, a special education teacher at Shaw High School, he has drawn on his wealth of experience from NYSP to shape his teaching as well as fuel his desire to give back to the community. The NYSP program helped him grow professionally, emotionally, and mentally. Dj states, *"it was never just a job, but a deeper connection-- a family."*

Did You Know?



Dennis "Coach" Harris - NYSP Director

Coach Dennis Harris did not play football at John F. Kennedy high school. However, he did play wide receiver for the Ohio State Buckeyes from 1977 through 1979. He played two years under the exceptional coaching of legendary Coach Woody Hayes, and then one year under Coach Earl Bruce. During this time, the team played against Alabama in the '78 Sugar Bowl, Clemson in the '78 Gator Bowl, and USC in the '80 Rose Bowl. In addition to his prestigious football career, Coach Harris worked hard scholastically earning his Bachelors in History.





Join Us!



National Youth Sports Program

Out of School Time

**FREE Virtual
Diversity Education
+
Health & Wellness**

September 21, 2020 - December 5, 2020

Every Tuesday: 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Every Saturday: 10:00 - 12:00 PM

Ages: 8-16 years old

For more information

Phone: 216-368-4843

Email: Nysp@case.edu

Contact Us!

Physical Components:

Swimming (required)
Basketball
Track and Field
Soccer
Volleyball
Flag Football
Softball
Dance Aerobics
Badminton
Weight Training

Educational Components:

Math and Science
Reading and Writing
Nutrition and Personal Health
Communication
Career Opportunities /
Job Responsibilities
Civics Education

Contact Information:

Dennis Harris, *NYSP Director*

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www.facebook.com/NYSP.CWRU/