



## Grantee News Release

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### **After-School All-Stars Receives \$20,000 through the Chicago Bulls Community Assist Fund**

**Chicago, October 23, 2017** – After-School All-Stars (ASAS) recently received a \$20,000.00 grant through Chicago Bulls Community Assist Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund. The grant will support the We Are Ready program. \$337,500 was distributed to 13 non-profit organizations across Chicago and the suburbs through the Chicago Bulls Community Assistance Fund in this grant cycle.

#### **About After-School All-Stars Chicago – We Are Ready**

ASAS offers students a free safe haven during the ‘danger zone’ hours of 3PM – 6PM—the time of day when youth can actually be most at-risk. The after-school hours represent a time when youth violence, drug use, and other potentially harmful behaviors peak for young people. As a school-based program, ASAS becomes a part of the school community and provides students with a safe, engaging and impactful in-school and extracurricular programs

We Are Ready (WAR) serves as a curriculum for high school, college, and career readiness for middle school students. The crossover from eighth to ninth grade is one of the most pivotal moments in a student’s education. The transition to high school brings increased academic demands, dramatic changes in the number of classes and teachers, and a school culture that is larger and more diverse. Paired with ill-preparation and limited knowledge about courses and skills needed in high school, too many students enter high school without a clear path to success. In ninth grade, average grades drop by more than half a letter grade and students miss three times as many school days as they did in eighth grade. Thus, preparing students for success in this critical ninth grade year is of utmost importance for middle school teachers across Chicago. With the generosity through the Chicago Bulls Community Assist Fund, After-School All-Stars Chicago can continue their mission to provide after-school programs such as We Are Ready that keep children safe and help prepare them to succeed in school and life.

#### **About the Chicago Bulls Community Assist Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund**

Established in 1990, through the Chicago Bulls Community Assist Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund, local nonprofit organizations with programs that concentrate on youth education and health & wellness are supported. Grants are made possible with the generosity of Bulls fans, the general public and corporate donations. All donations are matched at 50 cents on the dollar by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, based in Chicago Illinois. The Chicago Bulls and the McCormick Foundation pay all expenses, ensuring 100 percent of donations, plus the match, goes directly to local nonprofits organizations making an impact. Since inception, \$1,182,500 has been distributed improving the lives of at risk youth across Chicagoland. To learn more about the Chicago Bulls Community Assist Fund please visit <http://donate.mccormickfoundation.org/bulls>

#### **About the Robert R. McCormick Foundation**

Robert R. McCormick Foundation is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens. Through philanthropic programs, Cantigny Park and museums, the Foundation helps develop citizen leaders and work to make life better in our communities. The Foundation was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation’s largest foundations, with more than \$1.5 billion in assets.

The McCormick Foundation’s Communities Program continues Col. McCormick’s legacy by partnering with sports teams, such as the Chicago Bulls, media outlets and philanthropic organization across the country, to raise money and provide matching dollars which increase the impact of charitable giving. To learn more about the McCormick Foundation visit [www.McCormickFoundation.org](http://www.McCormickFoundation.org)