CLARK ATLANTA ATHLETICS IN THE COMMUNITY

Atlanta (October 7, 2009) -- Clark Atlanta University’s student-athletes and athletics staff began the 2009-2010 academic year by reaching out to the Metro-Atlanta community in an effort to give back as well as develop relationships with young men and women and local community centers.

“Community service is not about Clark Atlanta University; it’s about serving the community and fulfilling the needs of people within the community,” said Dr. Tamica Jones, Interim Director of Athletics. “We are excited about the opportunities to be involved thus far and we certainly look forward to working with others in our community.”

Community service activities include the following:

MEN’S BASKETBALL
On Saturday September 12, 2009, Men’s Basketball Head Coach, Darryl Jacobs, accompanied his team to the South DeKalb YMCA to conduct an instructional clinic for local youth. Twenty-five boys and girls, ranging from ages 6 thru 13 years of age, participated in the clinic. The players facilitated a series of fundamental defensive and offensive drills. They also spoke to the participants about the importance of education and what it takes to be a college student-athlete.

The coaching staff spoke with numerous parents, guardians and YMCA administrators about Clark Atlanta University. Coach Jacobs discussed the CAU mission both as a university and athletic department. “We want to build community relations, promote and establish ourselves as a great place for higher learning and build an athletic fan base,” said Jacobs.

Corey Newsome (Youth Sports Coordinator for South DeKalb YMCA) was truly appreciative of the Panthers conducting the clinic. “The players were tremendous and the parents want to know when the team can come back and do this again,” said Newsome.

Executive Director Winston Myers wants to build a working relationship with the entire athletic department. “This is great and we are truly appreciative for the team coming to mentor to our young boys and girls in our community. I hope this is the beginning of great relationship with South DeKalb YMCA and Clark Atlanta University,” said Myers.

On September 18, 2009 the CAU men’s basketball team partnered with our Cancer Research Center, Morehouse School of Medicine and the organization CHAMP (Community Health and Men’s Promotion Summit) in efforts to give awareness to fathers and their sons on Prostate Cancer. Forty fathers and sons attended the event and were led through a series of competitions.

There were also a few guest speakers that spoke to the fathers and sons about cancer awareness. The guest speakers included Aneta Thomas-Lee, who spoke about breast and cervical cancer,
Mr. Vincent Vandergriff who spoke about tobacco control and lung cancer, and a representative from the organization CHAMP who spoke about prostate cancer. The event was a great success and a reminder to the community of the importance of healthcare.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PLAY**

On Saturday, September 26, Interim Director of Athletics, Dr. Tamica Jones, along with CAU football players Winston Thompson and Marcus Winston, volunteered for the 2009 National Day of Play at Magnolia Park, a local housing community. The day was coordinated by Visions Unlimited, a company that provides young people and their families with services to meet emotional, physical, environmental and social needs.

Visions Unlimited received a $60,000 grant from the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation to initiate fitness, sports and nutrition programming in the following communities: Magnolia Park (a Vine City community), Central United Methodist Church, and Highland Retreat. The grant also went towards establishing programming at the following middle schools: Harper-Archer, Coretta Scott (all girls), Best Academy (all boys), North Clayton and Turner.

The National Day of Play was developed to promote youth fitness and combat obesity among children by encouraging children to engage in physical activity for at least 60 minutes each day. This year’s event headlined hip-hop mogul and businessman, Reverend Run, formerly of the group Run DMC. Reverend Run spoke about the importance of giving children opportunities and resources to play and maintain healthy, physically fit lifestyles, Thompson and Winston helped direct the kids during a flag football game.

When asked about what the collaboration between CAU and Visions means, Patt Cobb, Sr. Program Manager for Wellness and Fitness with Visions, stated, “This is an opportunity to show children in this area that HBCUs is where we need to go. It’s an opportunity for me to help the children from Magnolia and from the city of Atlanta that don’t get a chance to go to college games and introduce them to college sports. We start them young; we start them at five and six years old, and as they get older, our desire is to make sure they know about Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spelman College and Morris Brown College. We want them to view these schools as places they would like to spend four years. We will continue to support Clark Atlanta and make sure our children know about Clark and other schools in the area.”

- CAU -
SOUTH DEKALB YMCA
MEN’S BASKETBALL
SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

FATHER-SON CLINIC
MEN’S BASKETBALL
SEPTEMBER 18, 2009