



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# SUMMIT ORTHOPEDICS YOUTH SPORTS IMPACT

Over 1,500 kids participated in YMCA youth sports programming the last two years - made possible by Summit Orthopedics' Youth Sports Fund.

**Testimonial stories of impact from Youth Sports participants.**



## Jude's Story:

Jude's family was going through a period of adjustment and change. In the early stages of adjusting to a split home, Jude's mom Sara knew it would be financially difficult for her son to participate in football. Sara turned to the YMCA who offered assistance with financial support through the Summit Orthopedics' Youth Sports Fund so Jude could play.

The experience was transformational for Jude. His coaches went out of their way to ensure every player felt included in the team environment. The chance to play in the city-wide tournament at the end of the season helped the players feel important and supported, building their confidence. Throughout the season, Jude's coach Trai also worked with Sara to eliminate potential barriers. "They would text me changes if they knew it would affect my plans to get Jude to practice," she explained. "The YMCA and Summit Orthopedics made a difference for our family."



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## Tigo's Story:

When he came to the Emma B. Howe YMCA sports program, Tigo's family was experiencing several changes. His father had recently been incarcerated, and his mother was looking for opportunities to help her son succeed and break a cycle that has haunted generations of males in Tigo's family.

"As a parent, I've read the statistics," said Jodinichol, Tigo's mom. "I fully realize the odds are not in my son's favor in many ways. One of the best things I have done is sign him up to participate in the sports program at the Y."

When Tigo first started at the Y, he was welcomed by program director Rich, who made it a point to greet him with high fives. Tigo felt included right away, and Jodinichol was happy to see him interacting with a positive male influence. When Tigo first started participating in basketball, Jodinichol was apprehensive because while he enjoyed coming to class, Tigo was working on several behavioral and attention issues. Rich and the team were able to work with Tigo, and one year later, he has shown improvement and growth both on the court and at home.

"The effort he puts forth is much better, his communication skills have improved, and he is more willing to work with adults and his peers," Jodinichol shared. She has also gotten comments from his teachers and counselors at school, who report that he has shown progress socially as well as in his coordination and dexterity.

"The impact that the sports program and the Summit Orthopedics' Youth Sports Fund has had in our lives simply cannot be measured," said Jodinichol. "We are truly grateful for everything this program does to help bridge the gap in our lives and in the community to help give kids like my son a chance to have and see healthy role models and give them the skills and resources to shine."



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