

#BELIKECJ FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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GREETING FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS!!

The #BeLikeCJFoundation was founded in 2021 to honor the life & legacy of our beloved Cedrick "CJ" Harris Jr. His loving & devoted parents, Cedrick & Marie Ferdinand-Harris have made it their life's mission to keep CJ's spirit alive by spreading the #BeLikeCJ message!

What exactly does it mean to Be Like CJ? We're glad you asked!! CJ was a phenomenal multi-talented athlete who was destined for greatness in whichever sport.

However, being an amazingly talented athlete did not define him. CJ was a loving, kind, selfless, compassionate, & humble young man who cared more about others than he did himself. He always fought for the underdog. He sat with the unpopular kids at lunch.

When playing sports, CJ warmed up with kids who sat at the end of the bench. He scored touchdowns and quietly ran back to the sideline. He begged his parents to not share

the news of scholarship offers because he didn't want his teammates distracted by the attention. CJ dimmed his light so that others could shine... He was the #UltimateTeammate!!!

This is the message that the #BeLikeCJFoundation is committed to sharing. It is our mission to share these values with children around the world and to serve the underserved in our communities.

In the short time since the

foundation was founded, we have done quite a bit of outreach! We've had numerous camps, clinics, community events, speaking engagements, and other fundraising events locally and in the southeast region!

We are so grateful for your prayers, love, support, time, sponsorships, and donations!!! The #BeLikeCJFoundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Every dollar we raise goes to supporting the mission and vision of our organization.

We are looking forward to 2023 and the opportunity to impact lives through the #BeLikeCJFoundation!!!! Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

The #BeLikeCJFoundation
Board & Staff



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to inspire children and families nationwide by uniting people of different backgrounds through service and sports programs.

By teaching the values of respect and humility, our foundation will help children to build self-confidence and other essential life skills that will have a lasting and positive impact on their lives and the lives of others.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to educate children and families about how to be “The Ultimate Teammate” on and off the field or court. We will focus our efforts on anti-bullying and the importance of being kind and respecting others. We will work with other non-profit organizations in our community and nationwide to provide scholarships for underprivileged & underserved children, as well as provide school supplies and food donations. We will also focus our efforts on supporting families who have suffered the loss of a child. Lastly, we will work with coaches around the country to educate them on the importance & impact of being “servant” coaches.

Our foundation will work independently and through partnerships with other nonprofit organizations and companies who share our passion, mission, and vision.

EVENTS

◆ On July 2021

Braylon Milsak was awarded the CJ Harris High Character award. Braylon was chosen because of his character and commitment to his school work and community engagement activities. Braylon exhibited qualities that earned him this prestigious award.

◆ On September 5, 2021

The foundation held its first #BeLikeCJ event to honor CJ and keep his memory and legacy alive! The 1st Annual #BeLikeCJ Memorial Baseball Tournament was held in Benton, AR, and was directed by Steven Powell. There were 50 teams in attendance from all over the region!!

◆ On October 15, 2021

Cedrick and Marie attended the first #BeLikeCJ “Kindness Campaign Reward Day” at Ashdown Jr High. They shared CJ’s story with the students and talked about the importance of being kind and what it means to be the #UltimateTeammate.

◆ On October 22, 2021,

While in Baton Rouge, Cedrick and Marie teamed up with St. Jude Apostle School to spread the #BeLikeCJ message with their students! They shared a touching video about who CJ was and what it means to #BeLikeCJ! This meeting formed a special bond between the foundation and the students of St. Jude. The foundation is looking forward to continued partnerships and student engagement.

◆ On December 11, 2021,

The foundation hosted "The BeLikeCJ Holiday Camp" at Traction Sports in Baton Rouge, LA. The foundation honored CJ's legacy by connecting kids of different ages and backgrounds who participated in a baseball camp where they received training on baseball and educational life skills. The camp was instructed by local high school & college coaches and student-athletes. The foundation also coordinated a special guest appearance by the LSU Head Baseball Coach, Jay Johnson!!

◆ On April 4, 2022,

The foundation held its 2nd Memorial #BeLikeCJ Baseball Tournament in Benton, AR! There were 80 teams in attendance from across the region! The players learned what it means to #BeLikeCJ!!! This event was hosted by Steven Powell and he did a great job organizing the camp!

◆ On April 29, 2022,

The foundation partnered up with the Special Olympics and sponsored fun events for children with special needs! Cedrick and Marie spent the day interacting with the children and awarded the winners with medals.

◆ On May 7, 2022,

The foundation hosted its 1st Annual #BeLikeCJ Foundation Race to be the #Ultimate Teammate on the LSU Campus! The day was packed with family and fun which included free food, face painting, a photo booth, and other free activities for the entire family! The members of the foundation loved seeing the many kids who participated in the race. The foundation is looking forward to hosting the

2nd Annual Race in 2023!!

◆ On May 10, 2022,

The #BeLikeCJ Foundation awarded two deserving Ashdown High School Seniors with a \$500 scholarship! The two recipients were chosen based on their academic performance, athletic ability, volunteering in an organization and unique background.

Our first recipient, Jessica Crussell's educational aspirations consist of acquiring a bachelor's degree in any biological or health science that would assist her in pursuing a medical career as a doctor. Jessica's career vision is to one day be able to provide affordable health care to marginalized communities in the United States.

The second recipient, Jaxon Jester, has consistently proven throughout his studies and work experience that when presented with an opportunity he will make the most of it!! Jaxon has been awarded the chance to study at the University of Arkansas. He has the tenacity and determination that will take him far in life!

◆ On August 22, 2022,

The foundation hosted the #BeLikeCJ Foundation Back to School Clothing Drive/Giveaway in Ashdown, AR at the Texarkana Arkansas Recreation Center. The Ashdown community came together and donated moderately used backpacks, clothes, and shoes that the foundation used to bless other families and children in need. CJ had a habit of wearing the same clothes at least two to three times a week just to be in concert with his friends who didn't have access to new clothes or shoes. Therefore, at the beginning of the school year, the foundation had the opportunity to help local families facing financial hardships and provided their children with new and moderately used school clothes. This event also featured an educational video room where families learned more about who CJ was, how he lived his life, and how they can BeLike CJ after receiving free clothes, shoes, and backpacks. The foundation also provided free hotdogs and burgers awarded to people throughout the day. As a result, the foundation was able to help over 80+ families. The foundation is always exceptionally thankful for the volunteers who assisted with its

events and made serving the community possible.

◆ **On November 3, 2022,**

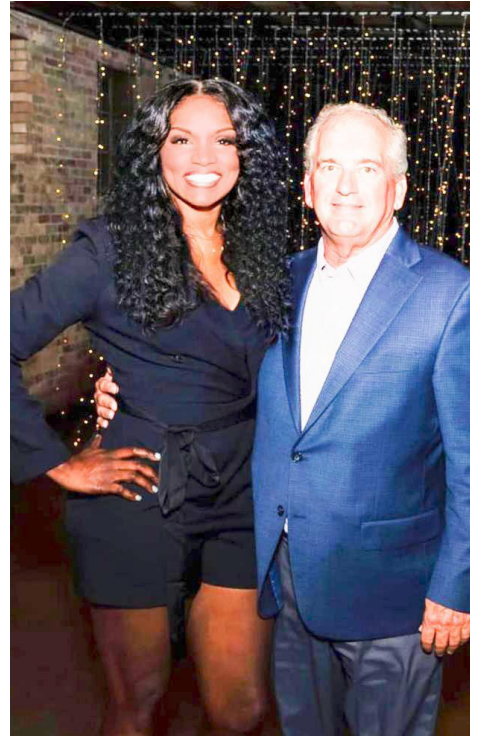
The foundation hosted a Dinner & Drawdown Fundraiser, a spectacular community affair. The event's goal was to bring families of all different backgrounds together and share the importance of teaching kids the values of respect and humility. The event consisted of a dinner, music, prizes, and raising money in support of the foundation's mission.

◆ **On November 17, 2022,**

The foundation held a "Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway" and donated turkeys to deserving families in the Ashdown/Texarkana areas who were experiencing hardship during the holiday season. It is the foundation's mission to serve the underserved and less fortunate. We were honored to give away 80+ turkeys and blessed many families. We hope to make this an annual event during the Thanksgiving holidays.

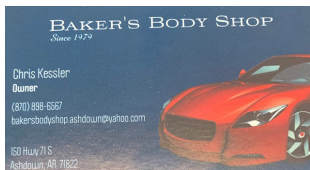








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