



LISC/ESPN PILOT HOME COURT PROGRAM GRANTS \$25,000 TO REFURBISH BASKETBALL COURTS AT THE FOR THE KINGDOM FACILITY CENTER IN MEMPHIS, TN
Award is part of \$150,000 in new grants for basketball courts nationwide

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 7, 2018 – For The Kingdom has been awarded a \$25,000 LISC/ESPN Pilot Home Court grant to construct a new basketball court at the For The Kingdom Recreation Center north Memphis, Tennessee.

The grant from ESPN and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the nation’s leading community development support organization, is part of \$150,000 allocated this year.

The LISC/ESPN Pilot Home Court Program is a collaboration between ESPN and LISC that provides non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations, middle schools and high schools with financing and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local basketball courts in selected markets. The Home Court program is part of a larger ESPN social responsibility initiative, RePlay that works to revitalize vacant spaces into places for sports, recreation and play.

For The Kingdom provides after school and summer camp programs to tens of thousands of youth from elementary, junior and high school students from surrounding schools as well as local non-profit groups on its 100-acre site at no costs. Improvements will include refurbishment of its 18 year old basketball courts and converting an existing tennis court into a full sized basketball court.

“Safe, accessible recreation facilities are essential for fostering active and healthy lifestyles”, said Beverly Smith, senior program director of LISC Sports & Recreation Program. “The improvements to the

basketball court at the For the Kingdom Recreational Center will improve opportunities for physical activity through sports, classes and free play”.

LISC identifies local, nonprofit, community-based agencies that have an interest in building or refurbishing basketball courts in schools and neighborhood parks. Through the program, local agencies are provided with the necessary financing and technical assistance to improve the quality and safety of courts in their communities. The agencies oversee the construction, maintenance and programming of the courts.

“Basketball courts can serve as tremendous neighborhood assets,” said Kevin Martinez, vice president of ESPN Corporate Citizenship. “They provide more young people the ability to access to sports, which ultimately contributes to better health and quality of life for those in the community.”

About ESPN Corporate Citizenship

ESPN believes that, at its very best, sports uplift the human spirit. Its corporate citizenship programs use power of sport to positively address society’s needs through strategic community investments, cause marketing programs, collaboration with sports organizations, and employee volunteerism, while also utilizing its diverse media assets. For more information go to www.espn.com/citizenship.

About LISC

With residents and partners, LISC forges resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity across America- great places to live, work, visit do business and raise families. Since 1980, LISC has raised more than \$20 billion to build or rehab more than 376,000 affordable homes and develop 63 million square feet of retail, community and educational space nationwide. For more information, visit www.lisc.org.