



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 10, 2025

Contact: Robert Corrales

Phone: (856) 757-9154

Cell: (732) 771-3094

E-mail: rcorrales@camdencpinc.com

Camden Health & Athletic Association to Host “Coaches Learning Lab” and Launch Equipment Giveaway to Support Youth Sports Across Camden

Camden, NJ — The Camden Health & Athletic Association (CHAA) will host its first-ever **Coaches Learning Lab** on **Wednesday, December 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM** at **Malandra Hall**, located at **1200 S. Merrimac Road, Camden, NJ 08104**. The interactive professional development session—focused on strengthening positive coach-athlete relationships—aligns directly with CHAA’s strategic pillars of leadership, mentorship, athletic development, and community wellness.

Session 1, titled “Fostering Positive Interaction: The Relationship Between Athletes and Coaches,” will be led by Michael McBride, an award-winning coach and dynamic speaker known for his motivational approach and ability to inspire youth sports leaders. McBride will discuss the importance of respect, communication, and healthy interaction—core elements that shape athlete confidence, performance, and long-term growth.

“We are committed not only to growing youth sports in Camden, but also to investing in the dedicated volunteer coaches who make these programs possible,” said Glen Jackson, Athletic Executive Director for CHAA. “This Learning Lab provides a space for coaches to strengthen their leadership skills, deepen their impact, and continue building a nurturing environment for our young athletes.”

A special highlight of the evening will be the Eagle Scout Service Project Equipment Giveaway, an extraordinary effort led by Evan Turner, a committed Boy Scout whose project was designed to support the relaunch of CHAA and youth athletes across Camden. Over several weeks, Evan collected and refurbished hundreds of gently used sporting goods, including:

- Baseball bats and gloves
- Street and field hockey sticks
- Football helmets, pads, and equipment
- Soccer and baseball cleats
- Golf clubs
- Tennis rackets
- Footballs and training gear

The equipment—much of it in excellent condition—will be made available at no cost to coaches, teams, and community sports organizations committed to serving Camden youth.

“This donation represents the spirit of service, leadership, and community partnership that strengthens Camden,” said Alex Darling, Sr. Project Manager at Camden Community Partnership. “Evan’s dedication ensures that young athletes—regardless of economic circumstance—have access to the tools they need to learn, compete, and thrive.”

Evan’s project has already made a meaningful impact. Coach Edwin Ramos of Cramer Hill Little League, one of the early beneficiaries, noted that access to equipment removes barriers and encourages broader youth participation.

Recognizing Evan’s leadership, Dr. Michael Goodman, Chairman of the CHAA Board of Trustees, shared, “Evan Turner’s project exemplifies the power of youth leadership and service. His generosity and commitment will touch the lives of hundreds of young people in Camden. Through this project, he has strengthened our city’s athletic community and demonstrated what it means to give back with purpose.”

Mayor Victor G. Carstarphen also praised the initiative: “When young people like Evan step up to support other young people, that’s Camden Strong in action. His project will help families, empower our coaches, and ensure that cost is never a barrier to participating in sports. We are grateful for his leadership and proud to see this level of compassion directed toward our youth.”

Local coaches emphasized how valuable this training will be for both seasoned and new volunteers.

“As coaches, we set the tone for how young people see themselves—their potential, their confidence, their sense of belonging,” said Coach Chuck Richardson of Whitman Park Basketball. “CHAA investing in our development shows that Camden’s youth deserve the best mentorship possible.”

Coach Orlando Pettigrew of the Centerville Simbas added, “This Learning Lab brings coaches together to learn, grow, and stay committed to excellence. When we strengthen our approach, our youth, teams, and communities get stronger too.”

Coaches, volunteers, and community partners interested in attending are encouraged to register by emailing Glen Jackson at: gjackson.chaa@gmail.com.

###

About the Coaches Learning Lab

The Coaches Learning Lab is a cornerstone of CHAA’s coach development strategy, offering tools and training in communication, youth development, leadership, safety, and inclusive coaching practices. The series is designed to elevate the standard of youth sports mentorship throughout the city.

About the Camden Health & Athletic Association (CHAA)

Founded by George E. Norcross III, Chairman of Cooper University Health Care, CHAA is dedicated to expanding access to youth sports, promoting health and wellness, supporting coaching and leadership

development, and fostering safe, vibrant opportunities for young people across Camden. Managed by Camden Community Partnership, CHAA provides year-round programming focused on athletic skill-building, mentorship, community engagement, and holistic youth development.

###