



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Camden Health & Athletic Association Hosts High-Energy Skills & Drills Basketball Clinic for Camden Housing Authority and Centerville Youth**

**Camden, NJ** — The Camden Health & Athletic Association (CHAA), managed by Camden Community Partnership, hosted a high-impact Skills & Drills Basketball Clinic on August 1st at Elijah Perry Park, engaging 50 youth from the Camden Housing Authority communities and the surrounding Centerville neighborhood. The clinic brought together boys and girls of all ages for an evening of athletic training, positive mentorship, community connection, and family fun.

Led by P.A.R.K. (Providing Alternative Resources for Kids) coaches and volunteer trainers, the clinic focused on strengthening essential basketball fundamentals — including ball-handling, shooting, footwork, defense, conditioning, and agility. More importantly, the activities emphasized teamwork, discipline, confidence-building, and positive sportsmanship, all core principles of CHAA’s mission to support healthy development and safe recreational pathways for Camden youth.

“Young people thrive when they have structured, nurturing spaces where they feel supported, encouraged, and challenged,” said Dana L. Redd, President & CEO of Camden Community Partnership. “CHAA’s Skills & Drills Clinic is about more than basketball — it’s about building confidence, strengthening character, and creating opportunities for our youth to shine. I am incredibly proud of every young athlete who participated and grateful to our partners for their commitment to Camden’s children.”

Participants demonstrated enthusiasm, focus, and vibrant energy throughout the clinic as they rotated through guided stations tailored for both beginner and experienced players. The clinic also connected families to community wellness resources and activities, reinforcing the importance of holistic development.

“CHAA remains committed to elevating youth athletics in Camden and ensuring every child — regardless of background — can access high-quality coaching, mentorship, and physical activity,” said Glen Jackson, Athletic Executive Director for CHAA. “Our Skills & Drills Clinics give young athletes the foundation they need to grow not just in the game of basketball, but in life.”

Following the clinic, youth and families joined Connect the Lots Camden’s Outdoor Movie Night, which drew more than 350 residents, including children, youth, and families from across the

neighborhood. Participants enjoyed hands-on art stations, face painting, facial sketches, and other family-friendly activities before the community screening of *“If.”*

Mayor Victor G. Carstarphen praised the event as an extension of Camden’s long-standing commitment to uplifting young people: “Investing in our youth is investing in Camden’s future. CHAA’s Skills & Drills Clinic brings together community, recreation, and opportunity in a way that strengthens our neighborhoods and creates positive pathways for our kids. I commend the Camden Community Partnership and all our partners for continuing to pour into our young people.”

The clinic was held in close collaboration with the Camden Housing Authority, which continues to champion youth engagement and wellness across its communities.

“We are incredibly proud to support CHAA and bring meaningful, high-quality programs directly to our residents,” said Melody Williams Johnson, Executive Director of the Camden Housing Authority. “Events like this demonstrate what is possible when partners come together with a shared mission to uplift and inspire our children. Our youth deserve every opportunity to grow, learn, and succeed — and this clinic delivered exactly that.”

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## **About CHAA’s Summer Momentum**

The August 1st clinic builds on CHAA’s expanding summer engagement strategy, which also included two Skills & Drills Clinics during the Camden Peace Games Tournament on July 26 and 27, along with a family-centered Outdoor Movie Night series. Together, these initiatives advance CHAA’s commitment to blending athletic development with community wellness, providing safe, structured, and enriching opportunities for Camden youth and families.

The event was made possible through the support and partnership of the Camden Housing Authority, the City of Camden, the County of Camden, Camden Community Partnership, the William Penn Foundation, Subaru of America, Reimagining the Civic Commons, the Camden County Police Department, P.A.R.K. CMD (Providing Alternative Resources for Kids), and War Room Basketball Training.

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## **About the Camden Health & Athletic Association (CHAA)**

Founded by George E. Norcross III, CHAA is dedicated to expanding youth sports access, promoting health and wellness, supporting coaching and leadership development, and fostering safe spaces 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.

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