



First Niagara Helps Provide Educational Enrichment Opportunities for Local Youth

BUFFALO, N.Y., July 23, 2013 – The First Niagara Foundation and Willie Hutch Jones Educational and Sports Programs are partnering to provide instruction for local children, at no cost, in fundamental life skill development, sports skill development, as well as academic support in science and math.

The First Niagara Foundation is providing \$10,000 in grant funding to provide access to various instructional programs and character building activities. The Willie Hutch Jones Educational and Sports Clinic has been in existence for more than 29 years providing free educational and sports programs in Buffalo and Lackawanna. Each summer, the program offers 16 sports clinics including, basketball, football, baseball, crew rowing, volleyball, tennis, soccer, swimming and more. During the school year, the program offers an afterschool program which includes homework assistance, computer labs, STEM math and science program, and extracurricular activities such as acting and tap dancing lessons, chess club, steel drum instruction and personal finance.

“When we heard about the Willie Hutch Jones Educational and Sports Programs, we knew it was an opportunity for First Niagara to help make a real difference in the lives of young people,” said Buford Sears, First Niagara Buffalo Market Executive. “We are proud to provide the support needed to help our community’s children develop the life skills necessary for independence and success. “

“We thank First Niagara for not only investing in our program, but also in the future of the kids in our community” says program namesake Willie “Hutch” Jones. “More than 10,000 students have graduated from our program in the past 29 years, participating in sports and academic curriculums, opportunities that may not have been readily available to them and certainly not free of charge. It’s been an absolute privilege to serve the community in this way.”

Program administrators at Willie Hutch Jones say hundreds of children participate in the educational opportunities they offer every year. These programs encompass a full range of learning which translates to higher test scores, self-esteem, motivation and respect for self, others and community. The mission of the Willie Hutch Jones Educational and Sports Program is to provide underserved children, at no charge, equal opportunities to engage in the highest quality program and to offer character building activities through academics, sports, & the arts.

About The First Niagara Foundation

First Niagara Foundation is a not for profit corporation founded in 1998. The Foundation is committed to supporting organizations in the communities in which we live and work with specific focus on youth and education, community development and neighborhood revitalization. In 2012 the Foundation contributed more than \$10 million in charitable grants to community partners. For more information, visit www.firstniagara.com/community.

About First Niagara

First Niagara, through its wholly owned subsidiary, First Niagara Bank, N.A., is a multi-state community-oriented bank with approximately 420 branches, approximately \$37 billion in assets, \$27 billion in deposits, and approximately 6,000 employees providing financial services to individuals, families and businesses across Upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts. For more information, visit www.firstniagara.com. For more information, visit www.firstniagara.com.

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