

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Photo & Video Opportunity

CONTACT:
Chris Hays
chris@blenderadv.com
412-709-6149
412-389-1385 (cell)



**United Way of Allegheny County's fitUnited initiative hosts
'Day of Action' at Willie Stargell Field**

More than 125 community volunteers to renovate the playing field

Pittsburgh, Pa. (June 16, 2015) – On Saturday, June 20, United Way's fitUnited initiative, alongside Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon, Inc. (P3R), City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works, and Homewood Community Sports, are hosting a United Way 'Day of Action' to make much needed improvements to Willie Stargell Field in Homewood. Almost 200 youth between the ages of six and 14 use the field as part of the Homewood Community Sports program.

"Ensuring our children and youth have a safe and clean place to play and participate in sports is critical to both the vitality of the Homewood community and the future of the children who live here," said Monte Robinson, president, Homewood Community Sports. "I know firsthand because I played on this field as a child."

More than 125 volunteers will gather from 8:30 a.m. to noon to repaint the walls surrounding the field; clean, paint, install storage and organize the concession stand and storage room spaces; clean and paint two bathrooms; paint bleacher railings; and clean up debris from the field and surrounding areas. Children's activities will be offered by Homegrown, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, PAEYC, and Innovative Wellness Solutions.

"fitUnited is committed to improving the health of children and youth throughout Allegheny County," said Christine Grady, program director, fitUnited Pittsburgh. "Instilling and supporting the development of healthy habits in kids is our goal. Providing a sustainable place for physical activity and sports is a key part in helping kids form healthy lifestyles."

Prior to the event, on Wednesday, June 17, student players from the Westinghouse High School and Central Catholic High School football teams will join together to prep the field. The students will sand and prep all paint surfaces, clean the field, and clean out the concession and storage area.

-MORE-

Those who are interested in volunteering as individuals or with their families should call Kristi Burry at 412-456-6856 to volunteer.

“P3R likes to give back and support the neighborhoods who help make the DICK’S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon so special,” said P3R CEO Patrice Matamoros. “Runners always vote Homewood as one of their favorite neighborhoods. We are proud to be part of this project that gives back to the community that has provided wonderful support to our participants. ”

Following the ‘Day of Action,’ Pirates Charities will renovate the playing field to better accommodate youth baseball and football players. A schedule for the renovation is being developed by the City of Pittsburgh and Homewood Community Sports.

About United Way of Allegheny County – United Way of Allegheny County is a change agent and efficient community fundraiser that improves lives by addressing critical community needs. By convening diverse partners and investing in programs and people to advance solutions, United Way creates long-lasting change and helps children and youth succeed, strengthens and supports families by promoting financial stability, ensures the safety and well-being of vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities, and provides county-wide access to information and referral sources meeting basic needs.

About fitUnited Pittsburgh - fitUnited Pittsburgh is an initiative of United Way of Allegheny County that works to improve the children’s health by mobilizing and motivating the community to provide caring adults with knowledge and tools to support healthy kids, encourage healthy eating at youth-serving organizations, increasing awareness of how to choose and access healthy foods, and increasing physical activity. Serving as a convener of people, programs and research, the foundation for fitUnited is evidence-based research and best practices in health, nutrition and fitness. We draw on both proven and promising programs at a national and regional level, and share these with the community through a series of special events and our website.

###