

NFL: Detroit Lions Charities Grants Announced

A Record \$582,000 in Grants is Awarded Bringing Overall Total to \$3.8 Milion

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/noticias.info/ ALLEN PARK, Mich. -- Detroit Lions Charities (DLC) has awarded 81 grants totaling a record \$582,113.93 to non-profit agencies. This year's awards bring DLC, the football organization's philanthropic foundation, to more than \$3.8 million in total donations in its 16-year history.

This year's record-giving total represents a 17 percent increase over last year's previous record grant total of \$496,000.

DLC was established in 1990 to assist all age groups in a diverse range of needs and programs in Michigan. Particular emphasis is placed on programs that benefit the children and youth of Detroit.

"Detroit Lions Charities assists non-profits that have demonstrated success in serving our community," said Lions' Vice Chairman William Clay Ford, Jr. "It is an honor and privilege for us to help provide needed funds and resources to enable these agencies to be even more successful."

2005 was an extraordinary year that presented challenges for the entire nation including the Lions' efforts in the community. A combined effort from the Lions and Ford Field led to nearly \$82,000 in DLC grants and another \$30,000 organizationally to support Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in the Gulf Coast.

Detroit's hosting of Super Bowl XL also brought several outreach opportunities. DLC awarded nearly \$100,000 in grants to support several Super Bowl-related charitable programs. Included in the donations were funds to support "Super Reading", a program which encouraged **Detroit elementary schools** to read. DLC also awarded a grant to support the NFL Youth Education Town (YET), a new Boys and Girls Club in western Detroit that will begin construction this spring.

The Lions will sponsor the Detroit Lions PAL Football League for the eighth consecutive year.

For the eighth consecutive year, a \$60,000 grant will sponsor the Detroit Lions PAL Football League. The league is operated by the newly merged Think Detroit PAL which combines the resources of the Detroit Police Athletic League (PAL) and Think Detroit. The football league involves more than 2,500 Detroit youngsters, ages eight through 14, playing in one of the nation's largest tackle football leagues. The Think Detroit PAL season will conclude with its annual championships to be held in November and hosted by the Lions at Ford Field.

Another major commitment to Detroit was made through a \$50,000 grant to Communities in Schools (CIS) of Detroit for the Detroit Lions Academy. The Academy has a student body of 140 sixth, seventh and eighth grade Detroit children who have had difficulties in traditional school settings. The Academy, which opened in 2001, is a cooperative effort



between the Lions, **Detroit Public Schools** and CIS in association with several corporate sponsors including Costco Wholesale, Ford Motor Company and The Dow Chemical Company.

DLC also assists several of the Lions' current and former players with grants to support their community efforts. Grants were awarded to quarterback Joey Harrington's Harrington Family Foundation and the Kevin Jones Foundation, established by Lions' running back Kevin Jones. A grant assists the University of Michigan Cancer Research Center through the Robert Porcher Cancer Research/Relief Fund. Grants support The James Cancer Center in support of Chris and Stefanie Spielman's breast cancer research fund in Columbus, Ohio and the Mike Utlej Foundation to support spinal cord injury research, rehabilitation and education.

A donation goes to former Lion Ernie Clark whose Life Long Fitness program provides Detroit senior citizens ways of staying fit and improving the quality of their lives. KOLO Charities, founded by former Lions' Bob and Scott Kowalkowski, was also funded.

The Lions' High School Football Coach of the Week program benefited 10 Michigan prep football programs from Detroit to East Grand Rapids and from Midland to Rockford. Flint Powers Catholic High School's coach Jack Pratt, a nearly 50-year coaching veteran, earned this year's Coach of the Year award after his team captured the Division 4 state title.

A total of \$18,750 in grants was awarded to 6 organizations to salute outstanding community volunteers through the William Clay Ford Community Quarterback Award. The overall award winner was the Reggie McKenzie Foundation and its outstanding volunteer Nathan Cayce.

For tax-exempt Michigan organizations interested in filing for future funding, grant requests will be accepted from October 1 through December 31. Further information on grant eligibility guidelines and application procedures is available by going to the Lions' web page www.detroitlions.com or by writing Detroit Lions Charities, 222 Republic Drive, Allen Park, MI, 48101