

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Leveling the Playing Field  
410-204-4814  
[comms@levelingtheplyingfield.org](mailto:comms@levelingtheplyingfield.org)

## **Leveling the Playing Field To Open Sixth Location in Detroit, Michigan in Q4 2024**

Leveling the Playing Field collects sports equipment to re-distribute for free to schools, youth programs and non-profits for kids in under-resourced communities

**Washington, D.C. (October 11th, 2024)** - Leveling the Playing Field (LPF) will expand their community based sports equipment and re-distribution operations to Detroit, Michigan in the fourth quarter of 2024. Detroit will mark LPF's sixth warehouse location across the U.S., joining Greater Washington D.C., Baltimore, MD, Philadelphia, PA, Western New York, based in Buffalo, NY, and Ohio, based in Columbus, OH. The Detroit warehouse will be located in the Islandview neighborhood and the team is actively recruiting for the LPF Detroit Program Director position.

LPF's Detroit location was made possible thanks to funding and partnership from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., Foundation, which also helped to establish LPF Western NY. LPF also sought input from Project Play Southeast Michigan and other local youth sports leaders, to determine that Detroit was ready for LPF expansion based on knowledge of the local youth sports scene.

"We're so excited about the opportunity to bring our program to Metro Detroit," says LPF Executive Director/Founder Max Levitt. "Detroit has a deep and historical passion for sports and, in particular, what sports can do for its young people. Detroit has one of the most impressive ecosystems of youth sports programs and community leaders focused on driving better access to sports. The cost of equipment is one of the barriers that slows down so much of the momentum in and around the city and we're eager to bring our warehouse full of equipment to put some wind behind the sails of what is already happening in this amazing community. We can't wait to get started."

"As the Wilson Foundation and our Project Play initiative work and invest in the growth and capacity of youth sports programs across the region to get more kids active, we continue to hear that access to sports equipment is a major barrier to participation." said Kari Pardoe, Program Officer for Youth Sports & Recreation for the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. "We've seen the incredible success and impact LPF has made across the country and the new distribution warehouse in Buffalo is already off to a great start with thousands of pieces of equipment getting into the hands of eager youth. We are proud of the teamwork that has come together to launch this new LPF site in Detroit and look forward to many more partners and the broader community joining us is getting more kids in the game."

Once a Program Director is in place, LPF Detroit will begin building out the warehouse space and collecting sports equipment throughout the 2025 calendar year. Volunteers will assist with sorting sports equipment before items are made available to local schools, youth programs, and non-profits during the second half of the year. Similar to other LPF locations, all sports equipment will be free of charge.

Those interested in the LPF Detroit Program Director position are invited to learn more about the position by visiting [LPFSports.org](http://LPFSports.org). For more information on Leveling the Playing Field, visit [LPFSports.org](http://LPFSports.org) or contact [info@levelingtheplayingfield.org](mailto:info@levelingtheplayingfield.org).

**About Leveling the Playing Field:** Leveling the Playing Field is a non-profit organization which collects and re-distributes sports equipment to kids in under-resourced communities. The organization currently operates in five cities: Greater Washington D.C., Baltimore, MD, Philadelphia, PA, Buffalo, NY, and Columbus, OH. Leveling the Playing has donated over \$14 million in sports equipment to schools, youth teams and leagues, and other non-profit organizations since 2013.