



Church of One Body of Christ
8407 Helmsley Court
Fishers, IN 46038
501(C)(3) TAX ID# 83-3045434

Dear Business Leader,

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Church of One Body of Christ is proud to be in leadership to support the Indy Firehawks Travel Football Team heading to Florida to participate in the Youth National Championship. In January of 2019, Church of One Body of Christ began an effort to invite the community in hopes of decreasing gun violence within the 46218 zip code in Indianapolis, Indiana. We are encouraged with the work that has been done with the youth of the Indy Firehawks.

However, we are partnering with them to help instill the values of community awareness, team building, providing care packages, mentoring, and youth-development. Our goal is to keep our young black and brown children from harming each other as they continue to grow in age and wisdom. Our goal is for them to grow in maturity and be those that would lead their community by helping and healing one another. All too often, we see the crime rate rise through gun violence and a lack of knowledge on de-escalation tactics. The current crime rate in 46218 zip code is 81.4 while the US average is 22.7 which tells us that if we don't act now, these children will repeat these behaviors. These children come from single parent homes with a very low income status. We see the need and aspire to be a beacon of hope in their lives and want them all to be successful men and women. No longer will we stand on the sideline and watch from afar. We are joining the fight to save lives. We encourage you to do the same.

The collaboration of support with the Indy Firehawks began in 2020 when former Indiana HS football champion Gilberto Lieja began gathering other former football players together to start a football and cheerleading league for youth who are vulnerable to becoming victims of gun violence. With his two sons as players, Gil, a.k.a. "Coach G" built a football and cheerleading league of 120 young boys and girls of color, 8 to 10 years old.

The Indy Firehawks Travel Football Team season has been extremely successful this year and with the dedication of 20 Black men and women who are coaching the youth to not only overcome their challenges, but be in community together, the team won the AWF State Championship and D1 Nation State title in Illinois, the D1 Battle of the Mountains in West Virginia and other showcases in Kansas City, Missouri and Ohio. The many parents who are involved and the Church of One Body of Christ are extremely excited to celebrate the success of the Indy Firehawks.



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As we've learned throughout history and especially during this pandemic: anything is possible with community and as a leader in the community, the Church of One Body of Christ is supporting the team by contributing funds to Indy Firehawks trip to Florida. Therefore, we are asking for donations from businesses that support youth and community organizations so that we can support the cost of transportation, food, and lodging for the 24-30, 3rd graders traveling to Wellington, Florida to play in the Youth National Championship from December 12-18, 2022.

Our efforts to support the Indy Firehawks is based upon the prevalence of gun violence in the Indianapolis, Indiana 46218 area and with your tax-deductible donation, our community can support the organization's goals of uplifting, educating and empowering the youth to overcome obstacles and become strong leaders. With your support, we can ensure the youth from the Indy Firehawks gain the opportunity to compete in the Youth National Championship and the community in Indianapolis has the opportunity to show how proud we are of their hard work, dedication to overcoming their obstacles and learning to be leaders.

We are asking for donation contributions of any amount and if your business can contribute to the success of the Indy Firehawks youth football and cheerleading league and their voyage to Florida to become champions, the Church of One Body of Christ will provide a tax- deduction receipt. In addition, the Indy Firehawks will provide sponsor recognition through Indy Firehawks social media platforms that have over 31,000 followers. Businesses that donate \$2,500 or more will be recognized as Platinum Donors on the Indy Firehawks Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok accounts and will be provided with team photos and updates from the trip.

As the Indy Firehawks families put on bake sales and other mass fundraisers to support the youth, we truly appreciate any contribution you can provide as we celebrate the success of the Indy Firehawks and prepare to send the team to the Youth National Championship.. If you have other questions about the Church of One Body of Christ or more ways to support the Indy Firehawks, please email Gale Barnett at firstladybarnett@gmail.com.

On behalf Church of One Body of Christ, we look forward to your donation as we yell, "Let's Go Indy Firehawks"