



ARMSTRONG / WALKER FOOTBALL CLASSIC LEGACY PROJECT

AWFC Legacy Project P.O. Box 25849 Richmond, VA 23260 www.awfootballclassic.com

Greetings _____,

In an effort to continue one of Richmond's greatest legacies, the Armstrong Walker Football Classic Legacy Project (AWFCLP) committee is working to make sure the history of "The Classic" continues to be shared for generations. "The Classic" which was birthed between a friendly football rivalry of our beloved Armstrong High School and Maggie Lena Walker High School became known as the Armstrong Walker Football Classic from 1938 to 1978. "The Classic" was held the Saturday after Thanksgiving annually and had as many as 40,000 people in attendance.

As we continue to build this legacy, the AWFCLP team continues to solidify its presence in the community. We are excited to announce we have partnered with the Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia (BHMVA), the City of Richmond, Dominion Energy, and United Healthcare. Now, we welcome the opportunity to partner with the your organization in this endeavor to help tell the stories of Richmond's original historically Black high schools. During the weekend of November 24-26, 2023 there will be numerous activities that are sure to engage audiences of all ages. Again, this year we will invite local high school students to see and learn about the history of the only two public high schools that Black students could attend and the pride and history of "The Classic" that will be on display at the BHMVA during the months of October and November.

In addition to celebrating "The Classic" our goal is to keep the rich history of these two schools in the forefront of our city's history. It is also our hope that we continue to educate millennials, GenX'ers and youth about the rich history of "The Classic" the pride that came with it, and some of the great talent that was produced and graduated from those endearing times including Arthur Ashe Jr., Governor Douglas Wilder, NBA Hall of Famer Bob Dandridge, NFL Hall of Famer Willie Lanier, Senator Henry Marsh, and many others. An important part of our community engagement is ensuring the programming and activities are accessible to students, and that economic standing does not create a barrier for participation. In 2022 community partnerships afforded Richmond Public School students the opportunity to attend and participate in the AWFCLP programs at the BHMVA, view the exhibition "The Legacy & Soul of Our Community: Forty Years of The Armstrong Walker Classic" along with lunch and transportation. Also, kids participated in the parade and football game.

This year's celebration will include a community service project of collecting new sneakers for kids, a parade, tailgate, and football games played by Richmond Parks and Recreation players in honor of the game played during "The Classic." There will also be historic school memorabilia, an exhibition, along with halftime programming honoring former classic participants, dignitaries, and homecoming queens. The weekend will wrap up with an Hour of Power. There will be lots of food, fun, fellowship, renewing of old friendships and meeting new friends.

We are a 501c3, and to successfully further our efforts we are seeking the generosity of community support through sponsorships / donations. These funds will be used to cover operating and programming expenses, provide scholarships, support local schools, youth sports, and STEM programs. This past year we provided scholarships to two high school seniors who are now students at Norfolk State University and Virginia State University, donated \$500 to Richmond Parks and Recreation for summer camp for kids, supported Armstrong Athletics camps, made a financial donation to Armstrong High School, and more.

Our goal is to raise at least \$48,000.00 over the next two months. We are counting on community partners, our strong alumni base, local businesses, and corporate sponsors to help support this legacy project (*See attached Sponsor / Donor Sheet*). Our desire is that this community project outlives us and be carried on by future generations to benefit many. We ask that you consider supporting the AWFCLP as it continues to grow each year. If you have questions, please contact us via email at armstrongwalkerclassiclegacy@gmail.com, Facebook at Armstrong Walker Football Classic Legacy Project, or the website at www.awfootballclassic.com. Make checks payable to **AWFC Legacy Project**; mail to P.O. Box 25849 Richmond, VA 23260, or Zelle payments to Armstrongwalkerclassiclegacy@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support,



Member, The Armstrong Walker Football Classic Legacy Project