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The Mal Washington Youth Foundation's Teen Center is on Par for Success with \$500,000 gift from THE PLAYERS Championship

JACKSONVILLE, FL, June 27, 2019 - For nearly 23 years, the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation (MWYF) has been driven to improve the outcomes of young people in the Durkeeville community. Today, their efforts to reach more students with a state-of-the-art Teen Center were honored with a \$500,000 community challenge grant awarded by THE PLAYERS Championship. Joining MWYF Founder Mal Washington, THE PLAYERS' Executive Director Jared Rice, and Duval County Public Schools' Superintendent Diana Greene, was PGA TOUR pro Jim Furyk. Furyk, a champion in his own right, who led students in a CHAMPIONS' pledge where they committed to practices and behaviors that contribute to their success. Middle School students who commit to the pledge will have the opportunity to earn a \$1,000 "Driven to Succeed" scholarship to further their education after high school.

"We have been fortunate to support the work of the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation for more than 15 years," said Jared Rice, Executive Director, THE PLAYERS. "The outcomes that they are producing for kids throughout our community are incredible. They are truly making a difference. We are proud to support them in their efforts to reach more kids and improve more lives."

Last October, MWYF publicly announced a capital campaign to build a new Teen Center, filling a great need for space, programming and offerings that serve and support teens. The Teen Center will offer age-appropriate services including academic assistance, college preparation, job and leadership training and recreational activities. The new 13,000+ square foot facility will be located at Emmett Reed park, adjacent to the current Youth Center. The Teen Center will include classrooms, a teaching kitchen, technology room, recreational areas, and administrative offices. In honor of THE PLAYERS \$500,000 contribution, the middle school wing of the Teen Center will be named THE PLAYERS. In addition, the funds will support a *Driven to Succeed* scholarship that will be awarded to a student who demonstrates champion-level behavior throughout the year.

"We are thrilled to have received such a generous gift from THE PLAYERS, our long-time partners," said MaliVai Washington. "I hope others will rise to the challenge of matching this gift and support the new Teen Center that will benefit the community for years to come."

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About THE PLAYERS Championship

THE PLAYERS Championship annually combines the best field in golf with the world-class venue that is THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. Morgan Stanley, Grant Thornton LLP and Optum® are the exclusive Proud Partners of THE PLAYERS. Proceeds from THE PLAYERS benefit Northeast Florida charities and have totaled \$100 million since the event moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1977, including a record \$9 million generated in 2018. For more on THE PLAYERS, visit THEPLAYERS.com.

About MWYF

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation's mission is to develop champions in classrooms, and tennis courts, and throughout communities. The mission is being fulfilled by providing a 3-hour afterschool program focusing on education, life skills, and tennis for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. The Foundation's vision is that young people who participate in its programs will gain the resources they need to rise to their full potential and become contributing members of society.

For questions about contributing to the capital campaign or to take a tour to learn more about MWYF's programs, contact Rossi Wright, Director of Community Engagement and Fund Development at 904-359-5437 or rossi@malwashington.com.