

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conway Community Center Celebrates Makeover

Surprise celebrity athletes to join more than 150 community volunteers to complete gym, cafeteria, and kitchen makeovers in conjunction with Super Bowl LII

SAINT PAUL (Thursday, February 1) – Today Conway Community Center celebrates a makeover made possible by more than 150 corporate and community volunteers in conjunction with Super Bowl LII. The community center, which provides high-quality, holistic programming to local youth and adults, was in dire need of a refresh. Broken backboards, old gymnasium flooring, worn walls, and dated kitchen facilities could no longer keep up with the needs of the community.

In 2014, The Sanneh Foundation (TSF) entered a multi-year agreement to operate and provide programming at Conway. At the time, the center was in danger of closing its doors and TSF has since provided diverse youth and families with programming and exemplary leadership. Through a distinctive mentorship program, students are paired with caring adults to focus on education, health, and play as foundation for growth.

“Since we partnered with City of Saint Paul and the community here and around Conway to keep the community center from closing, it’s been our goal to expand hours, programs and usage at Conway,” said Tony Sanneh, Founder and CEO of The Sanneh Foundation. “This project is our next major step in that direction because the gym, kitchen and cafeteria renovations unveiled today help bring the East Side community a state-of-the art asset.”

The makeover will support current operations, which includes serving 30,000 meals each year and allow for the center to expand programming for more than 800 guests of all ages. Several partners, including U.S. Bank Places to Play - a collaboration between the bank and the Minnesota Vikings-Under Armour, and the Super Bowl Legacy Fund joined together in support of The Sanneh Foundation to turn Conway into a vibrant center of learning and play.

As the transformation is underway, surprise celebrity athletes will make appearances throughout the day to help complete the center’s makeover and celebrate with the Conway community. Following a 3:30 PM Ribbon-Cutting, volunteers from US Bank, Under Armour, and KNOCK Inc. will lead Field Day and STEM-centered activities with students and members of the community. Conway youth will receive Under Armour bags filled with an age-appropriate book as well as items from sponsors and professional athletic teams.

The project was led by national nonprofit The Heart of America Foundation, that specializes in transforming spaces into modern learning environments by connecting community partners and vendors to complete the transformation. The makeover includes a completely new design with stainless appliances, cabinetry, and custom, countertops as well as a vibrant new color scheme and artwork. Cafeteria tables will provide flexible seating to meet the changing needs for students and community. The new gymnasium includes a new color scheme, brand new flooring (with full installation expected this spring), and local Minnesota team emblems paired with empowering words to encourage kids to work together and achieve higher.

“The space where a child learns and grows is vitally important and shows kids that they are valued,” said Jill Heath, President and CEO of The Heart of America Foundation. “The Conway Community Center staff does so much to support their students’ well-rounded growth and development, but the Center’s physical space didn’t reflect that. Today, these new-renovated spaces motivate, inspire, and

convey comfort, thanks to partners who stepped in to make a difference in their neighborhoods and turn Conway into a vibrant place to learn.”

As a true community effort, several additional partners have jumped in to support the transformation. THOR Construction is joined by Cambria who contributed custom countertops; appliance company All Inc. donated a double range; Sport Construction Midwest; Connor Sports; and J Wood. Local creative agency KNOCK Inc. designed a custom mural to depict the Saint Paul community and commemorate the day. THOR Construction began work earlier this month by overhauling the gym, preparing flooring, painting walls, and removing existing fixtures. Volunteers will complete the transformation in just two days, culminating on February 1 with a 3:30 PM Ribbon Cutting celebration.

“I am super excited to have so many strong partners here today to celebrate the completion of the Conway Community Center makeover,” said Sanneh. “This project has been a year in the making, and gives the community’s youth and families the first-class facility they deserve, ensuring they have a safe space and enough caring adults to help make their dreams a reality.”

Conway Community Center is located at 2090 Conway Street, Saint Paul, MN 55119.

About The Heart of America Foundation

The Heart of America Foundation®, a national nonprofit headquartered in the Washington, D.C. Metro area, transforms spaces into modern learning environments so that students and communities can learn and grow. Through its educational space transformation program, the Heart of America revitalizes technology labs, school libraries, gyms and other educational spaces in under-resourced communities into vital and vibrant centers of learning. Since 1997, Heart of America has provided children in need with more than 4 million library and take-home books and vital technology and has transformed nearly 400 educational spaces nationwide. The organization has engaged volunteers in more than one million hours of service to communities across the country. For more information, please visit www.heartofamerica.org

About The Sanneh Foundation

The Sanneh Foundation serves the holistic youth development needs of the increasingly diverse Twin Cities metro area. Our mission is to empower youth by supporting and promoting educational attainment through in-school and after-school support, improve lives by providing programs that strengthen physical health and social and emotional development, and unite communities by advancing diversity, equity, and community well-being. Conway was in danger of closing its doors a few years ago, so being true to its mission of empowering kids, improving lives, and uniting communities, TSF signed a multi-year Management Agreement with the City of Saint Paul to operate and provide programming at Conway.

For more information on The Sanneh Foundation, please visit thesannehfoundation.org

About U.S. Bank

U.S. Bancorp, with 73,000 employees and \$462 billion in assets as of December 31, 2017, is the parent company of U.S. Bank, the fifth-largest bank in the United States. The Minneapolis-based bank blends its branch and ATM network with mobile and online tools that allow customers to bank how, when and where they prefer. U.S. Bank is committed to serving its millions of retail, small business, wealth management, payment, wholesale and securities services customers across the country and around the world as a trusted financial partner, a commitment recognized by the Ethisphere Institute naming the bank a [2017 World’s Most Ethical Company](#). Visit U.S. Bank [online](#) or follow on [social media](#) to stay up to date with company news.

About Under Armour Inc.

Under Armour, Inc., headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland is a leading innovator, marketer and distributor of branded performance athletic apparel, footwear and accessories. Designed to make all athletes better, the brand's innovative products are sold worldwide to consumers with active lifestyles. The company's Connected Fitness™ platform powers the world's largest digitally connected health and fitness community. For further information, please visit www.uabiz.com.

About THOR Construction

Founded in 1980 as THOR Construction, our company has become known and trusted for general contracting, construction management, design-build, consulting, and self-performing concrete. Since the beginning, we have been laser-focused on being a good steward of client resources. This has led to building ongoing relationships,

helping us grow into one of the largest minority owned construction companies in the United States. Our growth was also built on the premise that minority and women-owned workforce and subcontractors provide key components for sustained success. Developing these work skills builds the entire community, as well as the built spaces themselves. Today, as THOR Companies, we offer expanded services within development, utilities management, design, construction, and consulting through dedicated business units that can function independently or work as a single team. For more information, please visit <http://www.thor.build>

Contact: Christine Lucas, The Heart of America Foundation, 571-814-8136 christine@heartofamerica.org

###