



CHANGEMAKER

AWARD

New this season, the NFL established the "Inspire Change Changemaker Award." During the season, each club selected an individual (or group of individuals) making a difference in their community with their social justice work, either individually or as part of a non-profit organization, called a "Changemaker."

The Baltimore Ravens chose Van Brooks as this year's NFL Inspire Change Changemaker!

Van Brooks is the founder and executive director of Safe Alternative Foundation for Education, Inc. (SAFE), a youth education program in West Baltimore. SAFE helps students achieve academic success and prepares them to overcome challenges as they begin to navigate their career paths. Brooks uses his own life experiences to highlight the importance of maneuvering through life's inevitable challenges with perseverance in the face of adversity.

Brooks was a talented multi-sport student-athlete at Loyola Blakefield High School when he broke his neck making a routine tackle his junior year. As a result of the injury, Brooks was initially paralyzed from the neck down. After experiencing widespread support from his family and friends, Brooks set out on a mission to positively impact Baltimore youth and establish communities of support for them.

Brooks founded SAFE in 2012 to provide free after-school and summer educational and vocational programming to middle school students in West Baltimore. In 2015, Brooks opened the SAFE Center, specifically designed to prepare students for their future careers, including unexpected life changes.

Brooks' commitment and the impact of SAFE on his community have earned high-level attention. He received the President's Volunteer Service Award from former President Barack Obama. In October 2017, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan named Brooks the Director of the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism. Additionally, Brooks is the youngest Living Legends Award recipient from the Living Legends Awards for Service to Humanity Foundation.



Ronnie Stanley Passes out Dog Treats at BARCS

On Thursday, Dec. 22, Ravens T **Ronnie Stanley** joined volunteers at BARCS to hand out homemade treats to the dogs at the shelter in partnership with his Ronnie Stanley Foundation. The Ronnie Stanley Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life for rescue dogs and individuals in need. The foundation trains and cultivates the therapeutic properties of rescue dogs to be matched with individuals who have faced various life challenges such as illness, emotional trauma and/or other hardships. These matches are even more meaningful because rescue dogs are placed in their forever homes.

