



The NFL created the "Legends Community" to embrace and celebrate all who have played in the NFL. Its mission is to bring opportunities and information to the former players and help them stay connected.

More than 1,400 players have worn the Black and Gold dating back to the team's founding in 1933. Many of these Steelers legends remain active in business and the community, and quite a few have made Pittsburgh their home.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Steelers legends positively impacted Pittsburgh and their hometown communities in many ways in 2020.

Will Allen Foundation

The Will Allen Foundation (WAF) provides programs and resources to instill hope, remove barriers, promote education, advocate civic responsibility, and change lives in the community. Programs include **Quest for Real Life Success**, a four-year program designed to prepare high school students through career development, college readiness and necessary life skills. Quest delivers meaningful instruction through modules in Robotics/CS, Financial Literacy, and Health and Wellness.

Like many organizations, WAF had to pivot during the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. The **Robotics Leadership Academy** operated until school closures prevented further program delivery, yet 15 students received certifications. In an effort to bridge the learning gap caused by remote classrooms, WAF also offered a virtual summer program in financial management, entrepreneurship and STEM.

WAF responded to community PPE needs by delivering more than 6,000 face masks and meals to underserved communities, in Allegheny County public housing and the My Brother's Keeper initiative and Columbus City Schools in Columbus, Ohio, in addition to providing adult and youth

face masks through the YWCA of Dayton.



The **Holiday Giving Program** supports families facing poverty that are paying 50% or more of their incomes on rent or mortgage. Normally the students from the Quest Program take a group of children from the local Boys & Girls Club shopping for their own families and every child goes home with a special surprise for him/herself. While in-person shopping was not possible in 2020, the Foundation was able to support 60 families with more than \$20,000 in gift cards and other means.

Will Allen at 2019 Holiday Giving

www.willallenfoundation.com

Best of the Batch Foundation

Alumni quarterback Charlie Batch founded Best of the Batch Foundation (BBF), a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the lives of children and families in distressed communities by building character, self-esteem, and appreciation for education. From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, BBF remained open and operational, safely adjusting programming to best serve Mon Valley youth and their families.

Their pandemic response programming began last spring with the **Comfort in a Basket** initiative, through which BBF provided over 1,000 children and their families in the Mon Valley area with care packages full of shelf-stable pantry items, household and personal hygiene items, the children's favorite snacks, and educational enrichment projects and workbooks. BBF also functioned as a community learning hub, creating a safe place where school-aged youth receive the resources to successfully complete online schooling.



Brain Boot Camp provides individualized homework help and tutoring. BBF tutoring staff utilizes strong partnerships with teachers and guidance counselors in the surrounding districts to form unique success plans to provide wrap-around academic support for struggling students. Throughout the day in the learning pod, youth are also given two meals, healthy snacks, and shelf stable pantry items to consume at home. In addition, through partnership with Comcast's Internet Essentials Program, BBF is currently providing internet access to over 150 Mon Valley households to minimize technical barriers in the home to create a successful learning environment.

Girl Talk is a national non-profit program focused on high school girls mentoring middle school girls by building self-esteem, developing leadership skills, and recognizing the value of community service. Girl Talk at BBF seeks to support the positive growth and development girls need during the formative middle school years through weekly educational meetings throughout the school year. In 2020, the weekly Girl Talk meetings were held in person and virtually. Monthly activity kits were delivered to the houses of the virtual participants to ensure all girls could equally participate in weekly lessons. Through

the hybrid program, girls were able to complete STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) challenges, a healthy lifestyle unit consisting of mindfulness, healthy eating, and exercise, goal setting, and much more.

The annual **Batch a Toys** ensures that needy families receive gifts for their children at Christmas.



www.batchfoundation.org

Jerome Bettis Bus Stops Here Foundation

The Jerome Bettis Bus Stops Here Foundation was created in 1997 by Pro Football Hall of Fame running back Jerome Bettis to provide opportunities for inner-city youth to succeed and become productive individuals in today's society.

The COVID-19 pandemic increased the need for two of the foundation's core programs. **Check-Inn** is a virtual program designed to engage the impoverished students of middle schools through engaging, exciting, and stimulating activities based on innovation and technology, entrepreneurship, film, video, art, Spanish, athletics and more. Participants virtually check-in to enjoy and experience enrichment, educational and other activities that keep them engaged while they're not able to attend formal

classrooms. The foundation realizes that the digital division is leading to the educational crisis among students.

Connected Kids is meant to connect as many underprivileged children and youth as possible with educational resources and technology. They request generous donations of technology devices like used computers and laptops from individuals and companies and donate them to the less fortunate students so that they continue with their learning and develop their skills in this digital era.



Rocky Bleier – A Heart for Veterans

Steelers and US Army veteran Rocky Bleier, who overcame a debilitating war injury to become a four-time Super Bowl champion, has a heart for helping veterans. Not only does he support numerous veterans-related causes, he is one of the owners and managing members of RBVetCo., a service-disabled, veteran-owned company. It specializes in the construction of commercial buildings, additions and renovations including planning, design, scheduling, value engineering and sub-contracting. He annually participates in the Steelers' Salute to Service game and activities, and in 2020 joined season ticket holders and military members in a virtual sideline experience on Zoom.

Mel Blount Youth Leadership Initiative

Hall of Famer Mel Blount runs the Mel Blount Youth Leadership Initiative (MBLI), which works to provide youth with programs where they will have a healthy environment to learn, work, play and to develop principles of respect, responsibility, and leadership through nurturing, moral and character development and guidance. www.melblount.org



Santonio Holmes - Strikes Against Sickle Cell

Santonio Holmes' son Santonio "TJ" Holmes III suffers from Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). After experiencing what SCD families go through, Holmes started the III and Long Foundation in honor of his son to raise awareness to help fight Sickle Cell and provide financial support and treatment options for families affected by the disease. In 2020 his Strikes Against Sickle Cell bowling fundraiser went virtual with small socially-distanced teams getting to bowl with Santonio and interact with him via social media.

<https://thirdandlongfoundation.org/>

Franco Harris

Hall of Fame running back Franco Harris lends his help to numerous area charities. During the pandemic, he sent videos encouraging and thanking front line workers and worked to encourage vaccinations through video and clinic visits.

Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless

Former Steelers offensive linemen and current team broadcasters Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley annually hold a walk to benefit the poor and homeless of Pittsburgh. In 2020, the walk was held virtually with proceeds going to Light of Life Rescue Mission to provide life-changing resources for Pittsburgh's homeless, hungry, abused, and needy, along with addiction and homeless awareness initiatives.



Brett Keisel Shear Da Beard

Steelers legend Brett Keisel is known for his mountain-man beard, and he grew it for a good cause. In February 2020, he held his 10th and final "Shear Da Beard" fundraiser to benefit the pediatric cancer programs at UPMC Children's Hospital. Fans paid to watch Keisel have his beard clipped at the event, helping to raise more than \$1 million over 10 years. Children's Hospital honored his contribution with a wall. In October 2020, the hospital dedicated a mural to commemorate Keisel's involvement and honoring his '10 Years, 10 Beards, \$1 Million' effort through 'Shear Da Beard.'



Jon Kolb – Adventures in Training with a Purpose

Former Steelers offensive lineman and coach Jon Kolb founded Adventures in Training with a Purpose (ATP) to confront health and movement related issues in vulnerable populations who no longer have the benefit of paid rehabilitation. Through this non-profit, Jon and his staff work with children and adults, many of whom are veterans, with purposeful physical training to improve their quality of life. In 2020 they were provided a larger space, enabling them to continue working with clients while following COVID-19 safety protocols. www.adventurestraining.org

Chuck Noll Foundation

The Steelers launched the Chuck Noll Foundation for Brain Injury Research in 2016 to support continued research and education regarding brain injuries and treatment of sports-related concussions. The Foundation funds research that it believes is the most promising in the area of sports-related concussions and related conditions. To help best evaluate which research programs to fund, some of the most renowned neurosurgeons in the country serve on a national medical advisory panel. Proceeds from the annual Hall of Honor dinner at Heinz Field support the mission of the foundation. In 2020, the foundation became one of the beneficiaries of the annual Steelers Run and Walk, presented by Gatorade, which was held completely virtually. <http://chucknollfoundation.org/>

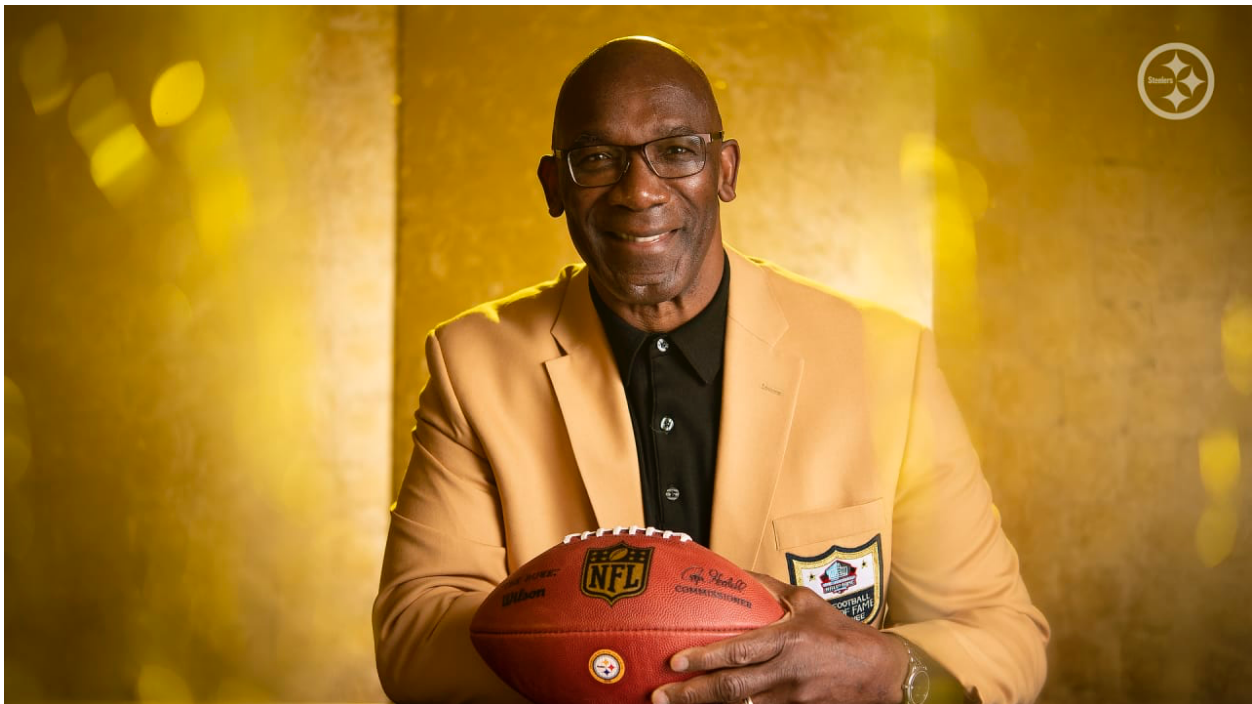
Donnie Shell Scholarship Foundation

The Donnie Shell Scholarship Foundation was created by Donnie and Paulette Shell to fill in the financial gap for students attending his alma mater, South Carolina State University. Many of the students who attend SCSU come from rural areas of the state of South Carolina and don't have the financial means to afford their college tuition. Though COVID cancelled the annual celebrity golf to in 2020, the foundation held an online auction to benefit the scholarship.

www.donnieshell.com/pages/scholarship

John Stallworth Scholarship Foundation

The John Stallworth Foundation (JSF) was created in 1980 by Hall of Fame WR John Stallworth and his wife Flo to provide merit-based scholarships to deserving students attending their alma mater, Alabama A&M University. The Foundation's mission was expanded in 2013 to add scholarships for students attending other universities in the state of Alabama. The JSF assists academically gifted, deserving students from diverse economic circumstances. Many of these students do not have the financial means to attend college and are often denied the opportunity to develop their full potential. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$550,000 in scholarship awards.



<http://www.johnstallworth.com/home/about-the-foundation/>