



# POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE, INC.

The best friend a kid can have

**PAL News**

Spring 2019

For over 100 years the Police Athletic League has successfully inspired countless youth to become productive citizens of society, based on one simple value " Police officers helping kids helping communities." This principle has led to improved relations between police officers and communities. When police officers and youth engage in meaningful activities, they understand their similarities outnumber their differences, leading to more respectful interactions. From our signature program model of PLAYSTREETS, championed by Captain John Sweeney in 1914, to our current collaboration with NYPD Neighborhood Coordination officers, PAL's success is forged in our partnership with NYPD and the law enforcement community.

With your support and through these partnerships, PAL engages in a variety of positive activities such as our Junior Police program where elementary school students are connected with the NYPD through local precinct visits, crime prevention workshops, and community service projects. Hundreds of children throughout the City participate in this program, which offers an opportunity to learn about police work. It allows for neighborhood police to develop relationships with community youth.

More recently, Police Commissioner James O'Neill has further spread our message to all officers, not only officers who volunteer for PAL programs. Now, patrol officers are encouraged to drop into a PAL Center in their community simply to see what's happening and offer help, cultivating camaraderie with the kids and further advancing their positive influence within the community. These officers take time to help a kid with their homework assignment or join in an art project, going above and beyond to make connections with our youth on a consistent basis.

In our Cops and Kids Sports Programs, officers bond with our kids all year round playing basketball, flag football, baseball, volleyball, and soccer games. Police



*"Cops & Kids [Sports] is a great way for the NYPD to connect to the community. Kids have a safe place to go and interact with positive role models."*

– Former NYPD Community Affairs Liaison, Bradley Herrschaft

Officers also serve as volunteer coaches to neighborhood youth. Older youth play on competitive sports teams with police officers, competing with them, learning from them, and developing significant relationships. Ninety-two percent (92%) of Cops & Kids participants say they have had positive interactions with police since they have been involved with PAL. Cops & Kids Sports service model is recognized by the National Crime Prevention Council as a "Best Practice" for community crime prevention.

In addition, other programs include Police Commissioner for a Day, an essay contest for high school youth, and powerful teen workshops entitled Operation

Conversation. These workshops help to further facilitate interaction and understanding among police officers and community youth. PAL programs are designed to prevent youth in at-risk communities from becoming victims or perpetrators of crime and to keep youth engaged in productive activities. Police officers benefit from the interaction with PAL youth and can cultivate relationships based on empathy, respect, and trust. Because of this, PAL remains a vibrant and vital New York City institution. Our partnerships with the NYPD, and supporters like you, keep thousands of children safe and productive during the most high-risk afterschool hours.



# MAKING CONNECTIONS



**If you have been involved with PAL in the past 15 years – you most likely know of or have heard of Marcel Braithwaite. Whether you were a PAL kid, employee or community leader Marcel has most likely influenced your PAL experience.**

In 2004, after stints as an entrepreneur and a public agency employee, Marcel found his calling at PAL in Queens – mentoring PAL staff members and inspiring PAL youth to be the best they can be. “Youth development programs like PAL add vibrancy to communities by providing opportunities for young people to express themselves and contribute in meaningful ways to their community,” says Marcel on his vocation.

Marcel’s ability to mentor PAL youth development professionals was recognized early on. As his responsibilities grew to his managing all of PAL’s afterschool and summer camp programs in New York City, Marcel continued to train staff members to be professionals and mentors to our young people. Marcel himself has mentored many of PAL’s young staff members who are now

managing critical youth programming at PAL and other youth organizations in New York City.

“I have had the privilege of working with committed, intelligent and talented people to train, to solve problems, and to create new programs and opportunities for youth. It has been an honor.”

Marcel has now taken on a new challenge at PAL – to go out in the communities of New York City, representing the best of PAL and learning how we can better engage with our young people and their families we serve.

In his new role of Director of Community Engagement, Marcel is taking the lead on: deepening our connections with NYPD and other law enforcement agencies at all levels, enhancing our relationships with elected officials and public agencies, and listening to and sharing our expertise with stakeholders interested in improving the lives of New York City youth.

These are ambitious goals. Under the leadership of PAL Executive Director Frederick J. Watts, we are committed to nurturing our supporters – because you make our work bear fruit. “PAL’s supporters should know that we appreciate their financial contributions, but we also

respect their deep connections in their communities,” says Marcel. “You help spread the good word about PAL’s work- you help us make connections with a variety of stakeholders, and you share your memories as a PAL kid. Your engagement with PAL is what makes our work so meaningful.”

Marcel is always happy to talk about how PAL can be even more connected in the communities we serve. If you have an idea or a story feel free to contact him at (212) 477-9450 ext. 394 or [mbraithwaite@palnyc.org](mailto:mbraithwaite@palnyc.org).



Marcel with NY Attorney General Letitia “Tish” A. James at a PAL Business Lunch

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Frederick J. Watts

## YOU MAKE EVERY SEASON AT PAL AN EXCITING ONE!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

PAL has always had the good fortune to have strong leaders in its corner. For 56 years, the Honorable Robert M. Morgenthau has helped lead the organization, and this year as he celebrates his 100th birthday, PAL will be honoring him at our Superstar dinner in June. We look forward to a special evening. PAL has many other champions who, like Mr. Morgenthau, work diligently on behalf of our PAL kids throughout the City.

Police Officer Lamont Anderson is one such person in many ways; he is the embodiment of the relationship between the New York Police Department and PAL. Officers on the beat who share their time with PAL children who can make a major difference. Whether they are leading our Junior Police Clubs as Police Officer Lamont does, checking in at a PAL Center during afterschool, or volunteering for a Cops and Kids sports league- these dedicated officers are there for our youth.

Besides our NYPD volunteers, we have a dedicated core of corporate and individual volunteers. These individuals give of their time in a myriad of ways at PAL Centers in all five boroughs. We also have a dedicated group of early career professionals known as The PAL Contemporaries. This new group meets both socially and to spearhead volunteer programs focusing on our teens. Volunteers are another group that is positively affecting the lives of the kids in PAL's programs.

And this is nothing new. Rarely a week goes by where we don't hear from PAL alumni about how their time at PAL affected their lives. Based on the number of people we hear from I do not doubt that there are many many more people who have thought about sharing their PAL story. I'll bet that some of those people reading this right now have stories to share. I invite you to spend a moment and drop us a note to let us know your story. You can mail it to us or send it through our website PALNYC.ORG. If you want to use the website, simply look for "TELL US YOUR STORY" under the "GET INVOLVED" menu option. Of course, you can always give us a call at 1-800-PAL-4KIDS, option 3.

The stories we hear make it clear that those people who choose to support PAL with donations have made the right choice. We could not work with over 30,000 youth each year without the additional support of our individual, foundation and corporate donors. I am particularly proud of the number of individuals who support PAL. We often say that together – The Board of Directors, PAL Staff, Police Officers, supporters, alumni, and volunteers – we are the "Best Friend A Kid Can Have," and we strive to prove it to be true everyday.



Thank you for all you do for PAL.

Sincerely,

Frederick J. Watts  
Executive Director

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# Thank You Officer Anderson!



The Police Athletic League's special connection with the NYPD allows police officers to work closely with PAL youth throughout the city, bridging a gap between the NYPD and the communities they serve. These officers act as vibrant, inspirational role models for the boys and girls at PAL, and Police Officer Lamont Anderson is just one example.

In 2017, PAL acknowledged Police Officer Anderson in our Fall newsletter for the time and hard work he has dedicated to PAL youth. He is retiring after 25 years as an officer but plans to continue volunteering his time with PAL. As a former PAL kid himself, Officer Lamont acknowledges the influence PAL has had on his educational and social development. This influence is what inspires him to continue paying it forward.

By providing the opportunity for PAL youth to interact with police officers, 89% of students say their outlook

towards the law enforcement has changed for the better. When asked about PAL's importance to our communities, Police Officer Lamont Anderson agrees. "This work is imperative because kids mainly see a negative perspective when watching the news and other outlets. Working with children in the community humanizes the police in their eyes."

Officer Anderson's involvement with PAL's Cops and Kids Sports Programs allows him and other officers the opportunity to bond with our kids all year

round playing flag football, baseball, volleyball, and soccer. Police Officers also serve as volunteer coaches to neighborhood youth. Using a competitive sports team model, older PAL kids play different sports with police officers in our Cops and Kids Program - competing together, learning from each other, and developing meaningful relationships. "Working hands-on, with PAL kids allows you to see their growth. It's a rewarding feeling when you see a timid child walk into your room the first day and watch him grow into an outspoken leader," says Officer Anderson.

We are grateful for all Officer Lamont Anderson has done, and continues to do, for PAL, for our city and our city's children. From everyone at PAL we want to thank Officer Anderson for continuing to be "The Best Friend a Kid Can Have."



*It's a rewarding feeling when you see a timid child walk into your room the first day and watch him grow into an outspoken leader."*

- Officer Anderson

Please join us to honor  
**THE HONORABLE ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU**

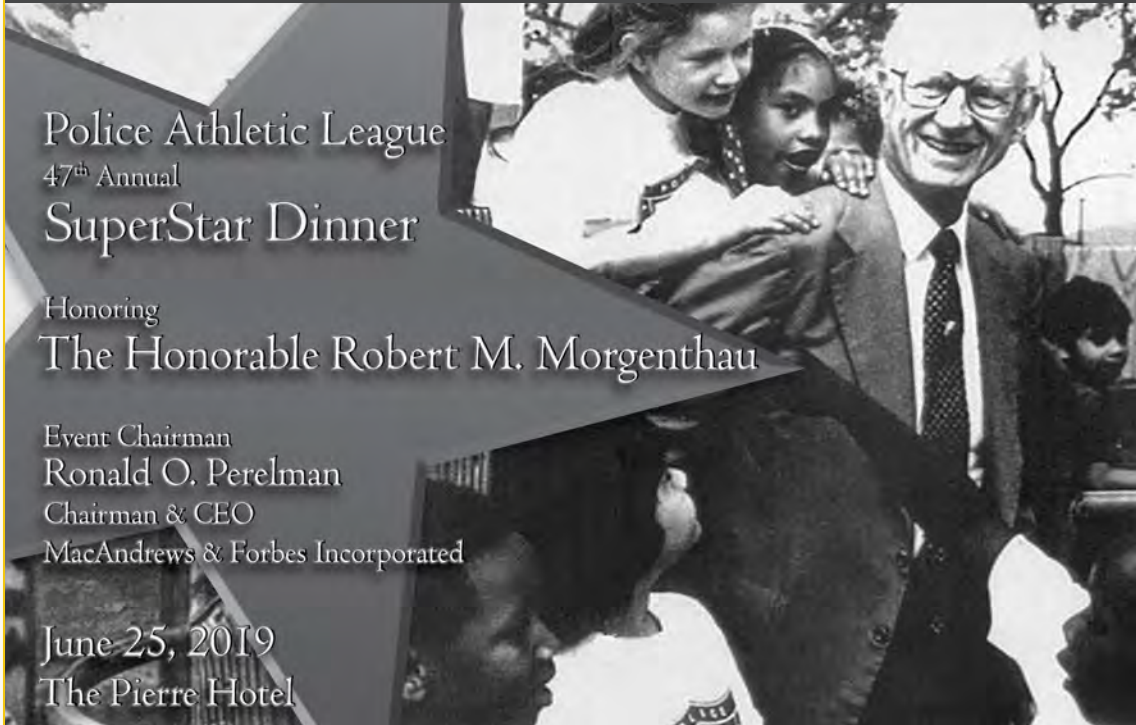
For more information call 212-477-9450 ext.309

Police Athletic League  
47<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**SuperStar Dinner**

Honoring  
**The Honorable Robert M. Morgenthau**

Event Chairman  
**Ronald O. Perelman**  
Chairman & CEO  
MacAndrews & Forbes Incorporated

June 25, 2019  
The Pierre Hotel



The Police Athletic League can provide wonderful programming thanks to its amazing supporters and volunteers. Each year PAL hosts over 20 events where corporations and individuals come together to support PAL's daily programming.

One of the corporations that has dutifully supported PAL's participants is Con Edison. Supporting PAL programming for

over 20 years, Con Edison has provided 50 volunteers annually. Their presence is counted on to help decorate for our annual Holiday Party, and to assist with activities at the party each year. Con Edison also supports our afterschool program with smaller events throughout the year.

Among our most important contributors are our individual volunteers, who dedi-

cate their time to support our centers. Barbara Schildcrout has been volunteering at PAL for over a year now, she assists with our special events, and even lending a hand at our administrative headquarters. Barbara says, "I enjoy volunteering because I see the great work that all the people involved with PAL do. I love seeing the bright, smiling faces of all the kids at the events PAL organizes." PAL is very thankful for dedicated volunteers like Barbara.

The PAL Contemporaries, a group of young professional PAL supporters, enters their second year, and will be focusing on volunteering with PAL's teen programming. They are expecting to host micro mentoring throughout the year to help build teens confidence as they move towards selecting a college. Their annual spring fundraiser will be in May.

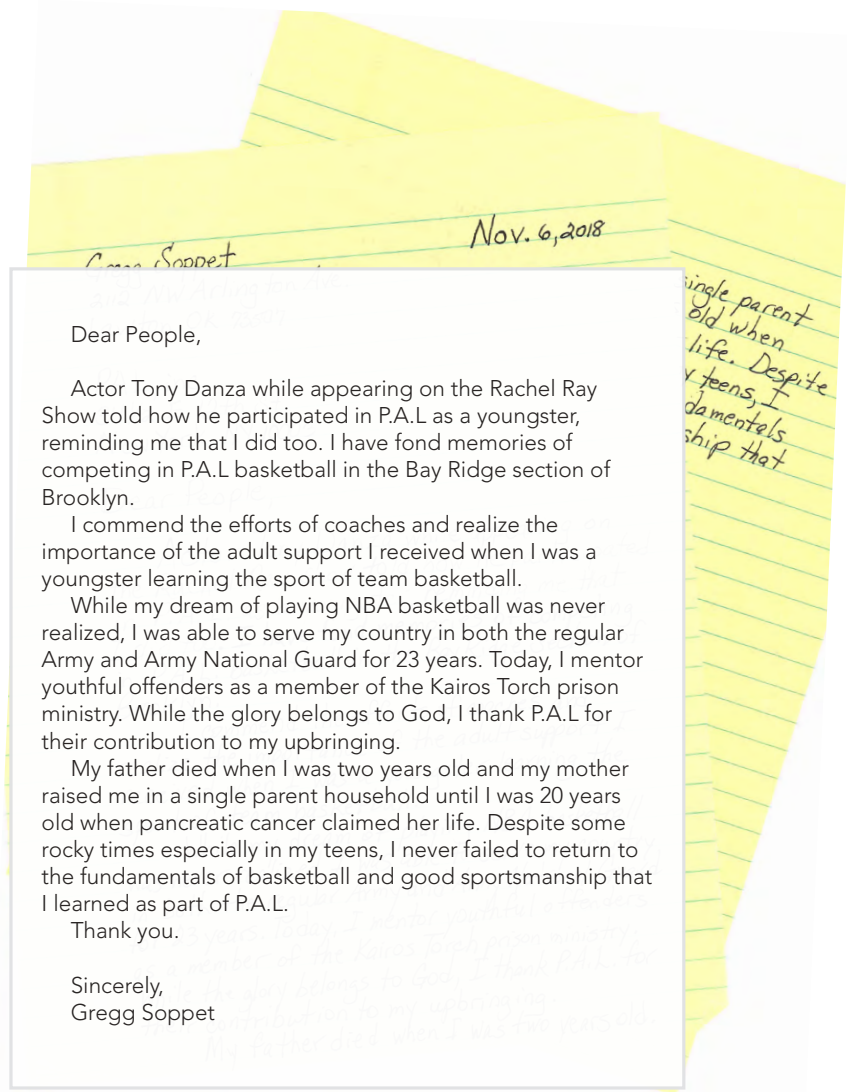
Please contact Evan Ressegger if you are interested in PAL's volunteer program.  
eressegger@palnyc.org  
212-477-9450 x 355



## ALUMNI STORIES

PAL alumni are great! Every week we hear from someone who grew up in PAL, and their stories are amazing. They tell how being a part of this organization changed their lives. Many even become members of law enforcement. The letter below is from Mr. Soppet and with his permission we are sharing it with you. If you have a PAL story, we hope you will share your story as well. You can mail it to us or call us at 1-800-PAL-4KIDS option 3.

Hopefully, you will enjoy this alumni story as much as we did. Also, we hope that you know that with your help every day throughout New York City PAL is creating new stories.



Dear People,

Actor Tony Danza while appearing on the Rachel Ray Show told how he participated in P.A.L as a youngster, reminding me that I did too. I have fond memories of competing in P.A.L basketball in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn.

I commend the efforts of coaches and realize the importance of the adult support I received when I was a youngster learning the sport of team basketball.

While my dream of playing NBA basketball was never realized, I was able to serve my country in both the regular Army and Army National Guard for 23 years. Today, I mentor youthful offenders as a member of the Kairos Torch prison ministry. While the glory belongs to God, I thank P.A.L for their contribution to my upbringing.

My father died when I was two years old and my mother raised me in a single parent household until I was 20 years old when pancreatic cancer claimed her life. Despite some rocky times especially in my teens, I never failed to return to the fundamentals of basketball and good sportsmanship that I learned as part of P.A.L.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Gregg Soppet

*“I became a PAL donor to contribute what I can to help children do positive things and stay on the right track while growing up.”*

– Matthew C. of Brooklyn, NY



PAL knows that the majority of our supporters have hearts that echo Matthew’s sentiments. That’s why we hope that you will consider becoming a PAL Partner and join a special group of New Yorkers that have found it in their hearts to give a monthly gift to the Police Athletic League. Their generosity helps to guarantee a constant source of finances that PAL can count on to help provide a safe place for kids to go when school is out. We could never accomplish our mission of being The Best Friend a

Kid Can Have without the members of our PAL family and we thank you all for your unwavering commitment to the children of New York City.

You can become a PAL Partner online on our donate page <http://bit.ly/PAL-MONTHLY> .

If you would like to learn more about becoming a “PAL PARTNER” please contact Renee Jamerson at (212) 477-9450 x. 353 or email her at [rjamerson@palnyc.org](mailto:rjamerson@palnyc.org).