



Statement on partnership with City of Norman for Indoor Multi-Sports and Aquatics Center

Our family is extremely excited to partner with the City for the Norman Forward Multi-Sport and Aquatics project, and this will be a world-class facility Norman youth deserve. We believe a project like this will change the landscape for all families in Norman.

Having three kids compete in multiple sports in Norman, as well as one younger son, we know the potential sports have to improve the lives of Norman's youth. Our children Trae, Caitlyn, and Camryn, all grew up playing basketball and volleyball at the Norman Recreation Centers and the Cleveland County YMCA. These were truly great experiences, as they were able to meet lifelong friends and establish great relationships in the community. But now we can offer our youngest son Timothy and other young boys/girls in Norman even better opportunities. We envision a facility that will change the way indoor youth sports are played in Norman and across the state. Instead of Norman families driving to basketball/volleyball events in communities' hours away (as our family did so often with Trae, Caitlyn, and Camryn), people will now travel to Norman, Oklahoma, to play these indoor sports. Also, experience our hotels, restaurants, and shopping, among other things that make this city what it is.

It's also very important to note that while this facility will be recognized nationally, our family feels that the continued growth of the City of Norman youth sports will remain a top priority in this facility. We understand that a majority of kids would rather play locally and focus on just the recreation side of sports, instead of playing in national events. The Norman Forward Multi-Sport complex will provide that opportunity as well for these kids. Part of our multi-million dollar donation will help create a scholarship program to ensure that no child will be excluded based on their family's income. That young athlete will be provided with all the equipment, jerseys, and everything necessary to ensure they have an equal opportunity to play sports. Another goal is to incentivize every kid that does well in school a chance to play in leagues for free, based on grades and school attendance. Last but not least, is the importance that all kids in Norman can have fun, make memories, and have the essential experiences everyone should have growing up.

We can't believe it has already been 16 years since our family moved to Norman. Trae was only six years old and attended Jackson Elementary with his two sisters. Since that time, we have raised our family here, become a part of the community, and want to continue to invest in this great city. We are honored to have this opportunity to make Norman an even better place to live, play, and call home.

Thank You, Norman!

The Young Family

Rayford, Candice, Trae, Caitlyn, Camryn, and Timothy Young