

Warriors Foundation Teams Up with FLY Program

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By mbobino

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Written by Jeff Weisinger

In an effort to help promote giving at-risk teens a second chance at a normal life, the Golden State Warriors Foundation teamed up with the Fresh Lifelines for Youth Program (FLY) to celebrate their success tonight at Era Art Bar and Lounge in Oakland.

FLY aims to help prevent juvenile crime and in vast incarceration through legal education, leadership training and one-on-one mentoring. They've helped give kids who were sentenced and imprisoned a second chance at life by helping them gain an understanding of the legal system.

Ali Knight, the Chief Operating Officer of FLY explained during the event that it's important to empower the youth.

"During these times in particular," he said, "being able to empower young people to understand the legal system, understanding where vulnerabilities are as young people of color in a community, understanding where opportunities for empowerment are as a young person – that's really powerful."

The connection with the Warriors is fairly new and one that FLY had to earn. However, it's one that they also really cherish.

"The Warriors Foundation is unique in that they really care about the community and are really connected to the community," said Knight.

Christa Gannon, the founder and CEO of FLY, a former college basketball player and Steve Kerr fan, echoed Knight's thoughts.

"It's huge," she said.

"One, it validates that our kids are worth it. Our kids are worth the investment, worth the attention, worth the effort.

“A lot of people believe that when kids are in the juvenile justice system that it’s too late. They can’t be changed and they don’t deserve our help; and having the Warriors step up and say ‘no, our kids can change. They’re worth the opportunity, they’re worth the investment and we’re going to be here to make sure that happens’ sends a huge message that we are more than our past mistakes.”

The event was a huge success. The Warriors and the Foundation have also partnered with Era Art Bar and Lounge to hold viewing parties for the games during the season while the team is on the road, especially during the playoffs/NBA Finals.

The Warriors currently hold second place in the Western Conference with a 9-2 record, just a half-game behind the L.A. Clippers for first place. They are currently on the road.

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