

Donald Trump donates \$25,000 to Slam Jam

Clyde Frazier Jr. was one of many heroes who lost his life saving others in the 9/11 tragedy. He was the last to leave, ensuring everyone had cleared his office. This was a man who gave back to the New York City community. He was a hero on that tragic day in history, but truth be told, Frazier had been a hero every day of his life, embracing the youth of his Harlem community, especially in the program he founded, the Slam Jam Women's Basketball Classic. At the height of the program, it included hundreds of girls. Though Frazier devoted his time to other programs, it was the young girls who benefited so very much.

The Slam Jam proved to be one of the most successful youth programs in New York City under the counsel of Frazier, who used the program to enforce the necessity of education. And soon enough, the Slam Jam girls could be seen in action on the basketball court and in the classrooms.

Recently, Clyde Frazier Sr. told his story about losing his son and about how the younger Frazier used his own money to fund the Slam Jam program, using athletics to reach youth and tutor in some of the city's toughest neighborhoods.

"He'd take money out of his own pocket," James Frazier said of his brother. Real estate mogul Donald Trump saw the elder Frazier's interview about his son and Slam Jam on "Good Day New York" and was so touched that he reached out to "Good Day New York" and made a donation to Slam Jam.

"It's a check for \$25,000," said the shocked elder Frazier. "I feel a little nervous. I'm talking about a billionaire. He's a man of the world. He's a master builder. It's a dream come true. ...You can tell

the girls to get ready. I really believe my son is doing this."

"It was amazing how you spoke of your son (Clyde) and your other son, James," Trump said to the elder Frazier. "I know you're going to spend this money wisely. It's an honor to know you."



Slam Jam players will benefit from Donald Trump's financial gift. (Bill Moore photo)



Donald Trump surprised Clyde Frazier Sr. with a \$25,000 donation for his Slam Jam girls program. (Photo courtesy of Fox Television)



Slam Jam players

It's a wrap on disappointing Liberty season

By LOIS ELFMAN
Special to the AmNews

The New York Liberty ended the 2013 WNBA season by matching their worst-ever record of 11-23, set in 2006. This season concluded with a seven-game losing streak as the team, beset by injuries and uncertainty, hobbled to the finish.

Some things are easily quantified. Cheryl Ford, who was expected to bring rebounding power, was done in by chronic knee problems before the

season even began, and Essence Carson suffered a torn ACL just four games into the season. Coach Bill Laimbeer tried different lineups in hopes of finding greater consistency, but somewhere along the line, the team lost confidence.

"Everyone was still working and practicing hard to achieve a goal, which was to make the playoffs and have postseason play, but it seemed like we just couldn't get it together," said veteran forward DeLisha Mil-

ton-Jones, who joined the Liberty in mid-August. "Sometimes the ball just doesn't bounce your way, and no matter how hard you play defensively, somehow something works against you, and all the positive efforts you're trying to give works against you in a way to where it benefits the other team."

Over the course of her 15-season WNBA career, Milton-Jones played many games at Madison Square

Garden and is well aware of the energy of the world's most famous arena. Whether or not she dons a Liberty uniform in 2014, she said a return to that home court will positively fuel the team.

"Madison Square Garden is the New York Liberty's home," she said. "I hope it will revive the team because we have a fan base there, and the fans are spectacular."

At the end of the month, Milton-Jones, who has

played all over the world, will return to Turkey. She hopes all the Liberty players hone their skills until next year's training camp and come ready to embrace the philosophy of the coaching staff.

"Everyone has to come in with a chip on their shoulders from everything that we've experienced this year," she said. "I hope that everyone will come back next year with a newfound sense of focus and commitment."