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AHR Expo Donates \$26,300 to the Central Florida (Orlando/Apopka) Police Athletic League through the 2020 Innovation Awards Program

WESTPORT, Conn., December 13, 2019 – [AHR Expo](#), the world’s largest HVACR event, to be held in Orlando, February 3-5, 2020, is giving back to the Orlando community with a donation of \$26,300 from its [Innovation Awards program](#). The [Central Florida Police Athletic League \(P.A.L.\)](#) has been selected as the recipient for 2020. This year’s donation marks the largest donation to date, a result of the Innovation Awards program receiving its most ever entries.

Each year, 100% of the entry fees collected from the Innovation Awards competition are donated by the AHR Expo to a charitable organization within the region where the Show is being held. In 2019, the AHR Expo worked with the Atlanta area P.A.L. organization with great success.

The Central Florida Police Athletic League serves the Orlando/Apopka area and is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing affordable after school, summer and athletic opportunities to more than 500 Central Florida youth. P.A.L. partners with organizations to provide a safe, healthy environment for its community children and teens. P.A.L.’s partnership with the police department provides mentorship as well as safety and crime prevention programs. In addition, P.A.L. partners with a number of community organizations to provide athletic, educational and recreational development. While P.A.L. serves many youths, typically from low to moderate income households headed by a single parent, all children are welcome and encouraged to participate in their programs.

In 1967, Orlando Police Officer Chick Fryar established what would become today’s Central Florida Police Athletic League. Officer Fryer is well-known in the area and remains a longtime advocate in the city of Orlando. Fryer grew up in the Paramore District area in a low-income household and aspired to give back to his community. Working closely with the Chief of Police at the time, Fryer instructed police officers to seek out those in need within their districts and encourage them to contact P.A.L. for assistance—especially underprivileged children living in the Orlando area who could benefit from a safe place to play and enjoy recreational activities.

The first Orlando area P.A.L. was launched in an old Winn Dixie grocery store building on Orange Blossom Trail. The city soon put in a playground at Fryer’s request, and both the

Chief of Police and Mayor at the time donated money from their own pockets to launch the program. In just a short time, it was apparent that P.A.L. was welcomed in the community and was working to keep area youth from participating in crime activity. In 1976, P.A.L. was officially incorporated as a 501(c)(3). It continues to be a success today, supporting the youth of Orange County Florida. *

Central Florida P.A.L. remains a vibrant part of the community and continues to grow its efforts to support children in the area. The strength of the program's leadership in conjunction with the dedication of the Central Florida Police Departments provides a strong program for youth to build positive relationships through educational activities.

"The AHR Expo continues to be humbled by the warm welcome from the surrounding communities where the Show is held. We are thrilled that we are able to work closely with these cities to support local initiatives while we are in the area," said Mark Stevens, Show Manager of the AHR Expo. "The growth and success of our Innovation Award program shows a dedication to our growing HVACR industry — and supporting the growth of strong local programs such as P.A.L. that are serving their community's youth is another way to support the future of our industry and many others. We look forward to seeing P.A.L. embark on their growth initiative with an HVAC system supported in part by this donation, as well as following along as they continue to provide invaluable services to so many."

Chick Fryar remains active in his involvement with the Central Florida P.A.L. and serves as the organization's Chairman of the Board. Mr. Fryar and colleagues will attend the 2020 AHR Expo Innovation Awards Ceremony to accept the donation and speak about their local effort. The official ceremony will be held Tuesday, February 4, 2020.

For additional information on the 2020 AHR Expo, to be held February 3-5 in Orlando at the Orange County Convention Center, visit www.ahrexpo.com. Contractors, HVACR engineers, technicians, public utility workers, students of the trade and other professionals working in the HVACR industry who are looking to network and see what's new in the field can register for free on the website until January 23, 2020.

*For more information on Central Florida P.A.L., their history and programs, visit <http://palcentralflorida.com/>.

About AHR Expo

The AHR Expo is the world's largest HVACR event, attracting the most comprehensive gathering of industry professionals from around the globe each year. The Show provides a unique forum where manufacturers of all sizes and specialties, whether a major industry brand or innovative start-up, can come together to share ideas and showcase the future of HVACR technology under one roof. Since 1930, AHR Expo has remained the industry's best place for OEMs, engineers, contractors, facility operators, architects, educators and other industry professionals to explore the latest trends and applications and to cultivate mutually beneficial business relationships. The next Show, co-sponsored by ASHRAE and AHRI, will be held Feb. 3-5, 2020 in Orlando, and is held concurrently with ASHRAE's Winter Conference.

For more information, visit ahrexpo.com and follow [@ahrexpo](https://twitter.com/ahrexpo) on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

About the Central Florida Police Athletic League

The Police Athletic League of Orlando/Apopka enriches the lives of children by creating positive relationships between law enforcement officers and the youth of our community through educational, athletic and leadership programs.

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Contact:

Nicole Bush
Montner Tech PR
203-226-9290
nbush@montner.com