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## Playing for Success



BRIDGE Lacrosse Dallas hosts a clinic every summer, in partnership with Circle of Support, serving 60-75 children.

Lacrosse is becoming one of the fastest growing sports in the nation, but in Dallas, it is also enriching lives.

BRIDGE Lacrosse Dallas is a non-profit program that works to grow the sport in underserved communities in Dallas. BRIDGE stands for Building Relationships to Initiate Diversity, Growth and Enrichment. According to founder Edie Lycke, the organization is not just about lacrosse — it is about instilling values such as responsibly, commitment, punctuality, effort and teamwork in these young people.

The program began at St. Phillip's School and Community Center in 2005 and grew into the Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School of Dallas by 2006. Students in grades third through tenth began to learn a sport that they have never played in their young lives. As one of the volunteer coaches Taylor Smiley will tell you, the key to accomplishing this is trust.

### FOR MORE OF THE STORY

- See [bridgelacrosseddallas.org](http://bridgelacrosseddallas.org)
- Go to [briggsfreeman.com/Bridge-Lacrosse](http://briggsfreeman.com/Bridge-Lacrosse)
- Also see [updatedallas.com](http://updatedallas.com) for the latest in real estate news.

"It [lacrosse] is a really hard game to learn for someone who has never played before. It can be discouraging," he said. "You have to develop a relationship. It helps in terms of whether they stick with it or not."

This is Mr. Smiley's third season volunteering for the fifth and sixth boy's team, The Saints, at St. Phillip's. He said one of the biggest benefits he has seen from the experience is being able to watch the change in the students' confidence from the beginning of the season to the end.

"For them to face challenges and decide to not back down from them helps their character and approach in the future," he said. "It is a pleasure to see that growth in the kids that we coach."

Through partnerships with Circle of Support and the Heart of a Warrior Foundation, BRIDGE Lacrosse Dallas has offered summer lacrosse clinics for hundreds of boys and girls. Many of these students grow into athletes who want to continue the sport in college.

"The large time commitment is challenging but at the end of the year I quite honestly am the one that comes away with unbelievable stories and tangible evidence of what that time is worth," Mr. Smiley said. "What they have developed is not just athletic but personal perspective."

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