



Stamford Peace Basketball Club Honors Student-Athletes

Four High School Standouts Earn the Kyle A. Markes Humanitarian Award

For Immediate Release:

STAMFORD, Conn., March 26, 2015—Stamford Peace Basketball Club, Inc. (Stamford Peace), a high-level youth basketball program serving boys and girls from the first through the eleventh grade in lower Fairfield County, honored four of its players at a ceremony on March 22 in Stamford. The high school seniors, who have played with Stamford Peace since its inception in 2008, and who will play college basketball next year, were honored with Stamford Peace’s Kyle A. Markes Humanitarian Award.

Brian Kriftcher, Founder, President and Head Coach of Stamford Peace presented the Awards to Kweshon Askew (Stamford High School), Ryan Kriftcher (The Taft School), Jeremiah Livingston (Westhill High School), and Tyrell St. John (Trinity Catholic High School).

“No players better embody the Stamford Peace story more than these four,” said Kriftcher. “Friends, roommates, classmates, and consummate teammates, these players have competed in more than 300 games together over the past seven AAU seasons, and together last season they went 6-0 at the renown “Live in AC” elite level national college showcase beating numerous nationally ranked teams along the way.”

“More importantly, they are ‘our’ originals,” added Kriftcher. “Jeremiah, Tyrell, Kwe and Ryan developed on our watch, and made it a point to enjoy the journey, and not merely the destination. Humble, selfless, funny, kind, smart, these boys are good people, in addition to being good basketball players, and so are well-deserving of this Award.”

As high school seniors this year, playing in the FCIAC, Jeremiah Livingston, Kweshon Askew and Tyrell St. John each earned 2015 All-FCIAC honors: Livingston earned FCIAC Player of the Year, made the FCIAC All-Defensive team, and earned the Most Outstanding Player in the FCIAC Championship Tournament. Askew made the All-FCIAC 1st team and All-Defensive team. Tyrell St. John earned 2nd Team All-FCIAC honors. In addition, Ryan Kriftcher earned All-Nassau County honors, before attending The Taft School this year as a post-graduate. Livingston and Askew have numerous NCAA Division 1 scholarship offers to their credit, while St. John and Ryan Kriftcher will be playing at the NCAA Division 3 level. Each of the boys is expected to make his final college selection later this spring.

The Kyle A. Markes Humanitarian Award was presented at “In the Name of Peace,” a player appreciation banquet held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at The Italian Center in Stamford. More than 275 people were in attendance. There was a Pop-a-Shot Game for the athletes; a “selfie wall” for players and guests to post selfies live during the evening, with the hashtag #StamfordPeace; and a Chinese Auction, which included a basketball signed by players in the National Basketball Association All-Star Game, tickets to attend a New York Knicks game at Madison Square Garden, and more. Nearly \$10,000 was raised in support of Stamford Peace’s programs and scholarships.

About The Kyle A. Markes Humanitarian Award

On Tuesday December 24, 2013, Kyle Anthony Walter Markes joined God's army of angels, following a thirteen-month battle with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Kyle was born to Mr. Walter and Dr. Jackqueline McLean-Markes on March 31, 2002 in Stamford, Connecticut. He attended pre-school at Mothers Little Helper in Stamford; kindergarten at Newfield Elementary School; and was in 5th grade at New Canaan Country School when first diagnosed. Kyle was a proud student of New Canaan Country School, member of Jack & Jill of America, Stamford/Norwalk chapter; First United Methodist Church Children's Choir; Stamford Football; Stamford Youth Soccer; Stamford Youth Basketball; and Go-Kart Racing School Grand-Prix. Kyle's love of learning shared equal time with his love of sports. He loved to play, watch and follow basketball, football and soccer.

About Stamford Peace

Founded in 2008, Stamford Peace offers innovative basketball programming for boys and girls ages 5 to 17, from in and around lower Fairfield County, Connecticut. Stamford Peace uses high-level basketball competition, training and instruction as a means of teaching the importance of education and other essential life skills to students from diverse socioeconomic, religious, racial and ethnic backgrounds. Among the life lessons emphasized to participants in the Stamford Peace program are the value of teamwork, discipline, a strong work ethic, personal integrity, sportsmanship and resiliency. The broad pursuit of excellence—on and off the basketball court—is a cornerstone of the Stamford Peace program. In 2013, Stamford Peace established the Beyond Limits Academic Program, providing math and science tutoring, and informal peer mentoring. Tutors are recruited from among Stamford Public High Schools and work one-on-one with Stamford Peace student-athletes and other Stamford Public Schools students. Fees are highly subsidized, and students who receive free or reduced-price lunch qualify for a 50 percent reduction of the already subsidized fees. For additional information, please visit the Stamford Peace website at: www.stamfordpeace.com.

<Image_1_KyleAMarkesAwardRecipientsWithCoaches.jpeg> Stamford Peace Co-Founder and Director of Basketball Operations, Lenwood Latta, Ryan Kriftcher, Tyrell St. John, Jeremiah Livingston, Kweshon Askew, and Stamford Peace Founder, President and Head Coach, Brian Kriftcher.

<Image_2_JacquelineMcLean-Markes.jpeg> Jackqueline McLean-Markes, in whose son's memory the Kyle A. Markes Humanitarian Award is named, speaks to guests.

<Image_3_BrianKriftcherPresentsAwards.jpeg> Brian Kriftcher presents Stamford Peace's Kyle A. Markes Humanitarian Award to, from left: Ryan Kriftcher, Tyrell St. John, Jeremiah Livingston, and Kweshon Askew.

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