

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT LUNCHEON OF CHAMPIONS

Mrs. Gayle Benson

Our first Inaugural Champion is a daughter of Algiers whose leadership has not only shaped the skyline of our city but has fundamentally strengthened the soul of our community.

Mrs. Gayle Benson is a visionary leader who has steered the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans to new heights, but her most enduring legacy is the way she uses her platform to ensure every young person in our community has a path to opportunity.

For YEP, Mrs. Benson's support has been transformative. Beyond her in-kind support and generous investment in YEP, she has fostered a culture of service within her organizations, encouraging Saints and Pelicans players to become engaged and supportive of YEP and other impactful organizations across the region. Her leadership affords the opportunity for our youth to meaningfully engage with their heroes firsthand through visits to our centers, one-of-a-kind visits to professional sports facilities, paired with the donation of vital resources from team gear and sports equipment to educational and programming supplies that directly enhance our participants' daily lives.

Her impact hits the ground exactly where our youth need it most. Through her role on the NBA Foundation Board, she has been a tireless advocate for New Orleans, securing resources that fuel our YEP Works and YEP Educates programs, in addition to many other non-profits in the region that promote school-to-career employment opportunities for under-resourced communities. Because of her, thousands of our young people across the region are receiving the workforce training and education opportunities they need to become the next generation of leaders in New Orleans.

Mrs. Benson's leadership is most visible when our community needs it most. From spearheading multi-million dollar disaster relief initiatives to ensuring our students have every resource necessary for success, she approaches every challenge with strong faith and professionalism that sets the standard for philanthropy in New Orleans. She doesn't just root for New Orleans on game day, she invests in the people of New Orleans every single day.

Please join us in honoring a true champion for YEP and all the Gulf South, Mrs. Gayle Benson.