In October 2019, the Minnesota Timberwolves announced the launch of an entirely new community impact platform called Pack Gives Back. Pack Gives Back is the social responsibility platform for the Minnesota Timberwolves, Minnesota Lynx, T-Wolves Gaming, and Iowa Wolves. The platform encompasses all the franchises' efforts surrounding social and community impact, inclusive of the organization’s employees, partners, players, and the Fastbreak Foundation. Pack Gives Back initiatives center around education, inclusion and wellness, and support its communities 365 days a year with the crossover of NBA, WNBA, NBA2K League and G-League seasons.

The Pack Gives Back campaign includes five-year goals for the organization that include:

- $5 Million dollars distributed via monetary & in-kind donations
- 500,000 Minnesota youth & families impacted
- 15,000 Volunteer hours
- 2,500 Non-profits served
- 500 Player appearances

As part of this community program restructuring, the Fastbreak Foundation will become the charitable arm for all four franchises and encompass a new public facing Board of Directors focused on creating a more substantial grant-making program and allowing greater flexibility in fan and community partner engagement.

Another key component of the Pack Gives Back platform is an increased commitment of team employee volunteerism efforts. The organization already offers several all-staff employee community service days and an employee-match program. Under the new campaign, the organization will provide an additional 16 hours of volunteer time off (VTO) to all employees to be used towards a charity of their choice that drives meaningful impact.
In November, the Minnesota Timberwolves announced the 2019-20 season grant recipients who benefitted from the recently launched Pack Gives Back social responsibility platform. The Fastbreak Foundation works with a variety of local non-profit organizations that support Pack Gives Back and its focus areas of education, inclusion and wellness.

Pack Gives Back announced the five non-profit organizations that received multi-year grants including Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities, Boys and Girls Club of the Twin Cities, HopeKids, MATTER, and Urban Ventures.

The organization also announced an additional ten non-profits that received a one-year grant including: ACES (Athletes Committed to Educating Students), Autism Society of Minnesota (AUSM), Cookie Cart, Positive Coaching Alliance, Ronald McDonald House Upper Midwest, The Sanneh Foundation, Special Olympics Minnesota, United Heroes League, Washburn Center for Children, and the YMCA Twin Cities.
Each season, supporters of the Tickets for Kids program donate NBA or WNBA tickets to the Fastbreak Foundation, which are then distributed to non-profits that support under-resourced communities; allowing them to experience a Timberwolves or Lynx game in person. The Foundation works with more than 200 organizations across the state of Minnesota and will provide over 40,000 tickets annually to children and their families.
Each month, the Book Mobile hits the road to visit local schools and non-profits to spread the love of reading throughout Minnesota. The Book Mobile offers students an incentive to read by giving them a chance to pick out their very own book to keep, allowing them to read at school and at home. Students also receive fun prizes and meet Timberwolves mascot, Crunch, or Lynx mascot, Prowl. The Book Mobile targets K-2nd graders in a 30-mile radius of the Twin Cities Metro area.
Timberwolves President of Basketball Operations, Gersson Rosas, was selected as a judge for the Google Impact Challenge, which awarded $1,000,000 in grant funding to non-profits that create economic opportunity in our communities. A panel of six judges including Gersson Rosas selected the five winners to receive $175,000 each. The public then voted on a favorite concept and that non-profit received an additional $125,000 in grant funding.
The Minnesota Timberwolves, in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities, announced the signing of 15 new honorary members to their roster to create the 2019-20 Jr. Pack. Each new member was introduced in a press conference by Timberwolves Head Coach Ryan Saunders before signing their one-day contracts. The Jr. Pack members, all ages 9-13, were then paired with a Timberwolves player for the day’s practice. The 2019-20 Timberwolves roster spent one-on-one time with their new teammates then ran through skills drills before the Jr. Pack enjoyed lunch with their families and friends in the Owner’s Suite at the Courts at Mayo Clinic Square.
During each home game, the Minnesota Timberwolves honored Minnesota’s military personnel as part of our Hero of The Pack program.
The Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx served as the first host mentoring site in Minnesota for the Global Sports Mentoring Program (GSMP). GSMP is an initiative in partnership with espnW and the U.S. Department of State that selects 16 emerging female leaders ages 25-40 from around the world for a month-long mentorship in the United States alongside top American female executives from some of the most influential organizations in sports and business.

The Timberwolves and Lynx organization joined ESPN, CAA and Google as host sites for the 2019 mentors. The Timberwolves and Lynx organization was chosen due to its leadership in empowering women through sport, its impact within the community, and its commitment to championing female leadership.

The Timberwolves and Lynx hosted Denisa Bishqemi from Albania. Denisa has been with the Albanian Basketball Federation for the past ten years and is currently the communications and projects director of the organization. She operates as a translator for the Ministry of Justice and has received training from the U.S. Embassy and the Gender Alliance for Development. During her mentorship she worked with the Timberwolves and Lynx to develop a strategic action plan aimed at creating sports opportunities for underserved women and girls in Albania.
The Minnesota Timberwolves, led by Head Coach Ryan Saunders and center Karl-Anthony Towns, gathered at Second Harvest Heartland on November 22 to sort and pack food for the holiday season. The Timberwolves partnered with Second Harvest Heartland to package potatoes into family size bundles to be distributed across Minnesota.

“In true holiday spirit, our Timberwolves basketball and business operations, players and their families partnered with Second Harvest Heartland to help stock food shelves for our Minnesota community,” said Vice President of Social Responsibility, Jennifer Ridgeway. “We are so proud of the incredible service Second Harvest Heartland provides across the state of Minnesota and our entire organization is grateful to further their critical mission to positively impact families.”
The Minnesota Timberwolves were named the 2019 winner of the Minnesota Keystone Award in the medium company category by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce for its generous contributions to the community and outstanding corporate giving programs. The Minnesota Keystone Program promotes corporate philanthropy by recognizing and honoring companies that donate at least 2 percent of their pre-tax earnings to charitable organizations.

Honored companies are selected each year from three categories based on business size: small, medium and large. The recipients of this year’s award were chosen from nearly 200 companies in the Minnesota Keystone Program and were honored at the Minnesota Keystone Luncheon.

“With our state of Minnesota being one of the most charitable states in our country, we know our community values showing up to support communities, championing causes that matter, and using our platform for good,” said Timberwolves and Lynx Chief Executive Officer Ethan Casson. “In an industry that requires the continued support of the community, it’s only natural that we pay it forward and give back at every opportunity. On behalf of our staff, our players and our coaches, a special thank you to the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce for this honor.”
Her Time To Play is a national grassroots initiative created by the WNBA and NBA to inspire the next generation of girls to play basketball in a positive and healthy way. Through sports, girls learn important life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and self-confidence. However, twice as many girls compared to boys drop out of sports by the age of 14, which can be attributed to societal barriers that are primarily faced by girls.

The Minnesota Timberwolves & Lynx hosted four Her Time To Play Clinics throughout the 2019-20 season. 40 young women from local basketball teams participated in the season-long program that featured on the court basketball skills and facilitated group discussions on various topics based on curriculum provided by Girl Talk, Inc. Timberwolves & Lynx players and alumni made appearances at each of the clinics.
• In November, former Timberwolves forward Robert Covington and his foundation ATF, in partnership with Power Plate Meals, provided holiday meals for 75 families in need within the Twin Cities area through the Emerge Mothers Academy, which equips single mothers from across the Twin Cities to overcome adversity and emerge as confident women and caring moms.

• Karl-Anthony Towns hosted his annual holiday movie screening in December with HopeKids, an organization that provides on-going events, activities and support for families who have a child with cancer or some other life-threatening medical condition.

• In December, former Timberwolves player Treveon Graham and his family traveled to the Mayo Clinic Children’s Center NICU in Rochester to spread holiday cheer with gifts and snacks for the families and nurses.

• Robert Covington and his foundation ATF, in partnership with HopeKids hosted a special holiday party in December at SkyZone for the youth and families of HopeKids.

• Jarrett Culver developed a unique bond with Addie Zimmerman, as she battles cystic fibrosis. In January, while Addie was in town for treatment, Culver surprised her with tickets to the Timberwolves game and to watch Culver during pregame warmups.
The Minnesota Timberwolves, in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities, hosted 15 members of the 2019-20 Jr. Pack for the annual Holiday Shopping for Kids event. The evening started with Crunch’s Holiday Bus Ride. Once the bus arrived at Target, the Timberwolves and the Roger & Nancy McCabe Foundation surprised the kids with an announcement that each Jr. Pack member would receive a shopping spree at the Knollwood Target, with Timberwolves players helping them shop.

Several Timberwolves corporate partners also added to the holiday cheer with special surprises for the kids including TCL with a 40” 3-Series TCL Roku TV, Fitbit fitness tracker. The Roger and Nancy McCabe Foundation provided each child’s family with a $500 gas gift card and Target provided the families with an additional $500 Target Gift Card to help assist the families during the holiday season. The entire Timberwolves roster was in attendance.
On December 16, the Iowa Wolves partnered with Re/Max Concepts, Concept Cares Foundation and Scheels to surprise three local families for the holidays. Iowa Wolves players Jordan McLaughlin, Jordan Murphy, Barry Brown, Jaylen Johnson, Tyus Battle and Brandon Francis were all on hand to help the families with their $500 Scheels Shopping Spree.
Salute to Troops: During each home game, the Iowa Wolves proudly support the men and women who serve and sacrifice in the United States Armed Forces. Each honoree was recognized for their commitment to our country with an on-court presentation.

The Iowa Wolves support several other local non-profits including Orchard Place - an organization in Des Moines that provides outpatient, inpatient and community based mental health services for children, and YESS – an emergency youth shelter that changes lives by protecting children and empowering their families.
In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx organization partnered with Community Emergency Assistance Program to host a day of service held on Friday, January 17. Timberwolves, Lynx and T-Wolves Gaming staff members sorted and stocked food, as well as packed 2,500 meal kits which were distributed through CEAP’s Food Market and Meals on Wheels program.
Nike teamed up with the WNBA & NBA to identify Game Growers across the country, empowering girls to use their voice and share their bold ideas. This is a new program created in collaboration between Nike and WNBA + NBA teams to get more girls engaged with sports. The program provides eighth grade girls with the space, tools and resources they need to create the change they want to see in basketball and beyond. 8th grade girls applied as a team of two by completing a questionnaire that dove into why they care about getting more girls playing sports.
The Minnesota Timberwolves & Lynx partnered with Boys & Girls Club of the Twin Cities for an art initiative in recognition of Black History Month. Youth from all eleven Twin Cities clubs were encouraged to create art displaying what Black History Month means to them. Artwork was displayed at all Timberwolves home games during the month of February.

Additionally, during the month of February, the Book Mobile was stocked with books which highlighted Black history, authors, and illustrators. The Book Mobile visited four different Boys and Girls Clubs in Minneapolis and St. Paul, with a Timberwolves or Lynx player in attendance for each visit along with Crunch or Prowl.
In honor of American Heart Month, Timberwolves players D’Angelo Russell and Karl-Anthony Towns visited Urban Ventures on February 20 to donate an AED and encourage the youth to live an active lifestyle to have a healthy and happy heart.
In celebration of Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day, Timberwolves, Lynx and T-Wolves Gaming players, coaches and staff read A Is For Awesome! 23 Iconic Women Who Changed the World to 2,740 students across 127 classrooms throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts.
On March 11, Lynx Head Coach Cheryl Reeve, Karima Christmas-Kelly and Rachel Banham joined Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey at Andersen United Community School to celebrate Women’s History Month by reading A Is For Awesome! 23 Iconic Women Who Changed the World and distributed books to students through the Book Mobile.
March 15 - Timberwolves Center Karl-Anthony Towns donated $100,000 to Mayo Clinic to support their COVID-19 testing and overall response.

March 17 - Timberwolves & Lynx owner Glen Taylor pledged to donate $1 million in a relief fund for the part-time gameday staff at Target Center.

March 19 - The Timberwolves & Lynx and Levy Restaurants partnered with Chef Fhima to donate perishable food from Target Center to the general public at a free community farmers market.

April 2 - Timberwolves Head Coach Ryan Saunders and wife Hayley donated and partnered with MATTER & Boys and Girls Club of the Twin Cities Communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

April 30 - Timberwolves Guard Jarrett Culver donated 15,000 meals to Second Harvest Heartland.

May 6 - Timberwolves Rookie Naz Reid donated 200 meals to nurses and staff at the hospital near his childhood home in Hackensack, NJ.
On April 20, the Timberwolves & Lynx donated 650 MATTER healthy snack packs, 150 MATTER meal kits and other essential supplies to the elders of the Prairie Island Community.
May 7 – Feed The Cities
Timberwolves & Lynx Broadcasters helped raise funds to donate 5,256 meals to local charities by filming videos for fans during the campaign through Cameo.

May 15 – All-In Challenge
Minnesota Timberwolves joined the All-In Challenge, a global initiative auctioning off once-in-a-lifetime sports and entertainment experiences with proceeds raised going to charities who feed those in need.
On Wednesday, June 3, the Timberwolves and Lynx entered a multi-year partnership with The Minneapolis Foundation. The partnership includes civic leadership duties with Timberwolves Head Coach Ryan Saunders and Lynx Head Coach and General Manager Cheryl Reeve serving as leaders on one of two advisory committees that will oversee the disbursement of the Fund for Safe Communities, a fund that will champion the prevention of further violence, address systemic inequities, reform the criminal justice system and heal communities affected by the tragic murder of George Floyd. The second advisory committee will be compiled of diverse youth from Minneapolis.

“I am proud of the ways in which the Minnesota Lynx have used our voices to stand up for social justice. The senseless murder of George Floyd has strengthened our resolve to bring about change in the inequities that face our black and brown communities,” said Lynx Head Coach and General Manager Cheryl Reeve. “This alignment with The Minneapolis Foundation will allow us to directly impact these inequities as well as be active participants in the healing of our communities.”

“Minneapolis is a special place,” said Timberwolves Head Coach Ryan Saunders. “I want all people of color to experience this amazing city without fear. We talk a lot about actions over words; we need to make meaningful change and that starts with partnering with The Minneapolis Foundation. As leaders on this Advisory Committee – we will work diligently with our youth counterparts to listen to what needs to change, raise awareness, and partner with informed leaders who can help bring meaningful impact to our cities.”
June 4 - Timberwolves Associate Head Coach David Vanterpool and Lynx Assistant Coach Rebekkah Brunson joined Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx CEO Ethan Casson and Kim Miller, Vice President of Programs at RISE, to lead a community conversation for the Timberwolves and Lynx staff surrounding the impact of George Floyd’s death, personal experiences and emotions regarding social injustice and systemic racism.

June 25 - The Lynx hosted a Community Conversation discussing the intersectionality of our LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities with community leaders and GM and Head Coach Cheryl Reeve and Assistant Coach Rebekkah Brunson.

July 8 - Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Police Chief Medaria Arradondo joined Timberwolves and Lynx basketball players, coaches and staff for a community conversation on the topic of social justice and police reform moderated by Kim Miller, VP of RISE.
On June 9, the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx, in collaboration with the Sacramento Kings, debuted a PSA calling for unity and action in the wake of George Floyd’s brutal murder at the hands of police. The nearly two-minute video features players from the three teams including D’Angelo Russell, Josh Okogie, Lexie Brown, Karima Christmas-Kelly and Rachel Banham along with Head Coach Ryan Saunders, Assistant Coach Rebekkah Brunson and Timberwolves President of Basketball Operations Gersson Rosas. Kings guard De’Aaron Fox, forward Marvin Bagley III and guard Bogdan Bogdanovic appeared alongside the Timberwolves and Lynx in the PSA along with Kings Head Coach Luke Walton and General Manager Vlade Divac.
May 29 - Karl Anthony Towns and Josh Okogie attended a peaceful press conference and rally led by Stephen Jackson and Jamie Foxx. The players showed their support for #JusticeforGeorge in the fight against racial prejudice and social injustice with their presence and their words.

June 5 - Josh Okogie, Malik Beasley, and Timberwolves coaching staff participated in food distribution and peaceful rally uniting with Kyle Rudolph from the Minnesota Vikings and Coach PJ Fleck from the University of Minnesota.

June 6 - D’Angelo Russell marched in remembrance of Breonna Taylor in her hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.
CHANGE STARTS WITH US COMMITTEE

Several Minnesota Lynx players and coaches participated in the WNBA-led committee, which was created to enact meaningful changes daily within the organization and in the community.
On June 11, Minnesota Timberwolves, Lynx and T-Wolves Gaming players, coaches and staff, as well as volunteers from Hy-Vee gathered at MATTER to pack 1,000 meal kits and 2,000 snack packs. On June 16, MATTERboxes were distributed to Urban Ventures, a community center in South Minneapolis where there was currently an urgent need for food due to the COVID-19 pandemic and closure of nearby markets and grocery stores because of the civil unrest. MATTERbox meal kits and snack packs were delivered to the families of Urban Ventures.
In June, the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx announced a partnership with RISE to unite and create programming to eliminate racial discrimination, champion social justice and improve race relations. The multi-year partnership includes Building Bridges Through Basketball Series, Perceptions Survey, Internal Workshops, Community Town Halls & Champions of Change Activation.

“This integrated partnership will provide us the opportunity to have a lasting impact in areas of racial equality and social justice,” said Timberwolves & Lynx CEO Ethan Casson. “These timely programs will provide our staff, players and coaches with the necessary resources and education to be agents of change within our community.”
The Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx hosted an American Red Cross blood drive, presented by Anheuser-Busch, at Target Center on July 9. The Timberwolves and Lynx teamed up with the Red Cross and Anheuser-Busch for the #OneTeam initiative to help the millions in need of blood donations. All 250 donor appointment slots were filled for the day’s event, which aided toward saving hundreds of lives. Fans who were unable to participate in the blood drive, but wanted to support the cause were able to pledge a monetary donation through the Timberwolves mobile app.

“It was uplifting to see our fans, staff and community come together today to safely donate blood and assist those in need through our partnership with the Red Cross and Anheuser-Busch,” said Timberwolves and Lynx COO Ryan Tanke. “Right now is a crucial time for all of us to make our community a better place in any way we can. We are proud to see our fans who showed up to support at Target Center, and the fans who continue to donate to the Red Cross through the Timberwolves mobile app.”
During each home game, the Minnesota Lynx along with Disabled American Veterans Of Minnesota honored local female veterans virtually as part of the Homegrown Hero program.
On August 6, Timberwolves Head Coach Ryan Saunders led players and local Minnesota coaches in a meal packing event at MATTER for the youth at the Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club in North Minneapolis. This group is a collaboration of coaches uniting for change & supporting our community.
On August 15, the Timberwolves & Lynx pledged $10M to the newly announced, first-ever NBA Foundation dedicated to creating greater economic empowerment in the Black community. The first-ever NBA Foundation’s mission is to drive economic empowerment for Black communities through employment and career advancement. This league wide charitable foundation, launched in partnership with the National Basketball Players Association, will contribute $300M in funding.

As we continue to push for change, the NBA Board of Governors announced that it will contribute $300 million in initial funding over the next 10 years to establish the NBA Foundation dedicated to creating greater economic opportunity and empowerment in the Black community. The foundation, launched in partnership with the National Basketball Players Association, is committed to helping create a more equal and just society for all.

Action Day is an annual volunteer event, in its fifth year, that brings the community together to fill backpacks with school supplies to help local students get ready for the upcoming school year. In preparation for the event, Timberwolves and Lynx staff teamed up with United Way on July 22 to pack 635 backpacks with supplies and later volunteered at the UPS facility to help sort and organize orders.
The Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx tipped off the Pack the Vote initiative on Sept 1 to provide the Twin Cities and communities across the country nonpartisan voter education, voter resources and assist with digital and in-person voter registration options for the 2020 United States General Election. Through this initiative, the organization partnered with local non-profits, including The Sanneh Foundation, Urban Ventures, NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center and Urban League Twin Cities, to go into various under-resourced communities in the Twin Cities and help residents become registered to vote and complete the 2020 United States Census while following COVID-19 guidelines. In addition, the Timberwolves and Lynx offered an online portal and text service that allowed all eligible residents throughout the country to become registered to vote. This initiative followed Timberwolves and Lynx CEO Ethan Casson’s announcement earlier in the summer that Election Day 2020 would be an official company holiday to ensure all employees had the day to fulfill their civic duty and were able to be engaged in the communities they live in.