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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **GARY FOR LIFE BASKETBALL LEAGUE TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS**

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP GAME THURSDAY, AUGUST 17**

**Gary, Indiana**-The Gary for Life Basketball League has been burning up the court on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Hudson-Campbell Fitness Center. The League's inaugural season of exciting basketball kicked off on July 13<sup>th</sup> and will end August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Gary for Life is sponsoring this first youth and adult basketball league as a part of its crime prevention efforts. Gary for Life is a holistic comprehensive approach to addressing community restoration by reducing violent crime in the City. The goal is to engage young males interested in participating in an organized activity during critical crime hours and to provide a positive safe environment. The youth league was named in honor of Coach Ron Heflin. Coach Heflin made a lifelong commitment to youth basketball and education in the city of Gary.

Additionally, players in the league are mentored by the coaches and other positive community influencers. At-risk individuals may also be eligible to receive outreach and supportive services. Services include job training, employment and educational assistance and are available through GFL partner, Goodwill Industries.

Organizers say response to the basketball league has been overwhelming. Players were recruited and encouraged to sign up for the League. While all slots are filled for this season, GFL Program Manager, Joy Holliday says GFL has plans to host another season to begin in March 2018.

The League hosts the GFL Ron Heflin Youth League games at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Adults play at 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. **Note:** The end of the season Championship Games will be played on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>; youth at 5:30 p.m. and Adult games at 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. at the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Charter School Gym, 556 Washington Street.

All are invited to come out to support the GFL League. **Admission is free for all games.** Concessions will be available. While the City of Gary runs the league, Gary for Life is the sponsor. League manager is Cedric Kuykendall. The city thanks American Water for their continued support. "Restoring the community one basket at a time!"

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