



# NFLPA TEAM UP FOR THE COMMUNITY

## Dear Educator,

The 2026 Super Bowl is just around the corner, with millions of people tuning in worldwide to the big game on Sunday, February 8. Turn this landmark event into a teachable moment for your students through *Team Up for the Community*, a free educational program inspired by the NFL Players Association's Community MVP program. Students will explore how others make a positive impact on their communities in hopes of inspiring them to do the same.

We hope you will share this program with other teachers. And please give us your feedback on the program by visiting [ymiclassroom.com/feedback-schoolMVPs](http://ymiclassroom.com/feedback-schoolMVPs).

Sincerely,

Dr. Dominic Kinsley  
Editor in Chief  
Young Minds Inspired



Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by email at [feedback@ymiclassroom.com](mailto:feedback@ymiclassroom.com).

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Grades 3-6

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Available at [ymiclassroom.com/schoolMVPs](http://ymiclassroom.com/schoolMVPs):

- This teacher's guide
- Two reproducible student activities
- Football cut-out
- A curriculum standards chart

## CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

Social awareness Community Civics Speaking and listening	Reading informational text Researching a topic Informational writing
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## ABOUT THE NFLPA COMMUNITY MVP PROGRAM

The NFL Players Association (NFLPA) is the labor union that protects the rights, health and safety, and working conditions of professional football players in the National Football League. Each week during the regular season, the NFLPA honors one player who has gone above and beyond for his team city or hometown. The weekly Community MVP winners also become eligible for the Alan Page Community Award, which is the highest honor that the NFLPA can bestow upon a player and is annually presented during Super Bowl week.

## HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Make photocopies of the activity sheets for each student. Before starting, review with students the definitions of *community*, *community service*, *charity*, *philanthropy*, and *social impact*. Have students share their completed activity sheets with their families.

## ACTIVITY 1 SCORE FOR THE COMMUNITY!

To start this activity, ask students: *Do members of a community have a duty to help others who live there? What are some examples of ways that you've seen people help out their community?*

After this discussion, read the above description of the NFLPA Community MVP program to the class. Distribute the activity sheet and have students read the brief profiles of four Community MVPs in Part 1, showing them the artwork and photos from their charitable events at [nflpa.com/community-mvp](http://nflpa.com/community-mvp), if possible. Ask students to share their thoughts on the ways these players help their communities. For example, ask: *What stood out to you? What was your favorite part and why?* Then ask the students how they can work together as a team to make a difference in their own community.



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In Part 2, students can work on their own or with a partner to research individuals and organizations that help others in your community. (You may want to prepare a list of individuals/organizations in advance to share with students.) Students will use their research to complete Activity 2.

## ACTIVITY 2 BREAKING NEWS

Distribute the activity sheet and explain that students will act as journalists to complete a news article about the Community MVP they researched in the previous activity. Students will need photos, glue, and markers or crayons. As an alternative, have students complete the page about someone in the community who has helped them in the past or who is currently making their life better.

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- **How I Can Be an MVP:** The NFLPA Community MVPs do amazing work in their hometowns and team cities, and so can the rest of us! Discuss small tasks students can do to help support the people around them, such as helping a younger student, introducing themselves to someone new to your school, offering to sit with someone at lunch, or cleaning up the schoolyard.
- **Hall of Fame Tunnel:** Provide students with copies of the football-shaped MVP cut-out in this kit and have them fill in the information about an MVP in their life. Hang the footballs in a school hallway to create a "tunnel" that students can walk through and be inspired by all the helpers.
- **Our Community MVP:** Have students create posters that highlight what makes your community special. Students might create a poster with headlines, photos, and captions, or craft a collage featuring people, places, and things that make your community special.

## RESOURCES

- NFL Players Association: [nflpa.com](http://nflpa.com)
- NFLPA Community MVP: [nflpa.com/community-mvp](http://nflpa.com/community-mvp)
- [ymiclassroom.com/schoolMVPs](http://ymiclassroom.com/schoolMVPs)



# SCORE FOR THE COMMUNITY!

**PART 1** Football season brings exciting sports action to the gridiron. It's also a time to recognize players in the National Football League (NFL) who go the extra mile to help their communities. Each week during the regular season, the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) honors one player who has made a positive impact on his team city or his own hometown by naming him a Community MVP. Read about four honorees from the 2025-26 NFL season.



**Garrett Bolles**  
Denver Broncos

After his son was diagnosed with childhood apraxia — a speech disorder that makes it difficult for children to speak — Garrett Bolles and his wife Natalie opened the Bjorem & Bolles Childhood Apraxia Training Center in Parker, Colorado, to help families facing the same challenge. The center trains speech therapists to work with children with apraxia and provides education and support for families. As Garrett says, "Every child with apraxia deserves a voice."



**Osa Odighizuwa**  
Dallas Cowboys

Osa Odighizuwa knows how hard it can be for a single parent. He and his three brothers were raised by a single mom. To help other single parents in Dallas, Osa hosted a baby shower for 20 single moms and their families. Each guest went home with more than \$500 worth of gifts to help prepare for the babies. He is planning to throw a second shower in his hometown of Portland, Oregon.



**Jeremy Chinn**  
Las Vegas Raiders

Jeremy Chinn knows the pain of homelessness because he watched a close relative go through it. At the beginning of this season, he hosted a special kickoff celebration for 90 Nevada teens who were experiencing homelessness. The event included dinner, games, and free haircuts. In addition, each teen was given a backpack, hoodie, shorts, and sandals.



**Bijan Robinson**  
Atlanta Falcons

Bijan Robinson struggled to enjoy reading as a kid, but as he's grown further in his football career, he now understands the power within books. That's why he hosted a huge book fair in his team's football stadium for more than 7,700 Atlanta kids. Bijan read a book to the crowd, and each student took home a gift bag filled with reading materials, snacks, pajamas and a shirt. The event kicked off his BijanReads program, which will work to improve literacy rates and build reading corners at Atlanta schools.

**PART 2** Your community also includes people and groups dedicated to helping others. Research one of these local MVPs to find out how they support your community. Use the back of this page if you need more space.

Person/organization: \_\_\_\_\_

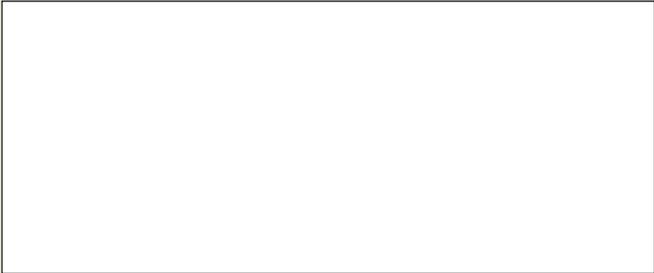
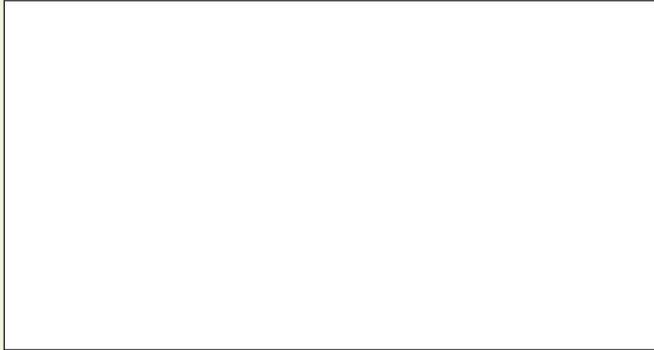
How they make a positive impact on our community:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Families:** You can be an MVP in your community, too! Discuss someone you know who could use a helping hand and what you could do to help them. Then choose a task to do!

# BREAKING NEWS

It's time to honor your community MVP! Create a news profile about the group or person you researched for the "Score for the Community!" activity. Start by filling in this organizer.

<p>Photo or drawing of your MVP</p> 	<p>Name of person/organization</p> 
<p>Catchy headline</p> 	
<p>Brief biography of the MVP and how they make life better in your community</p> 	

**Families:** Talk about ways you and your family can support the MVP featured on this page. Ideas include writing a thank-you note for their work in your community, holding a yard sale to raise money for their cause, or even volunteering to help alongside them.

My Community MVP:

How they supported me:

How I can thank them: