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Contact: [Katherine Fox](#)

## WIN for KC partners with Girls on the Run to Launch *Let Them Play KC*

KANSAS CITY, MO (May 24, 2020) – Two local non-profit organizations that are dedicated to empowering girls through sports & fitness have joined forces to combat discriminatory efforts to limit access to sports.

Through an initiative called *Let them Play KC*, [WIN for KC](#) and [Girls of the Run of Greater Kansas City](#) have committed to working together to “advocate, educate and facilitate productive dialogue around the power of sports to promote inclusion, respect and belonging.” The goal of the initiative is to unite like-minded organizations and work towards impacting change at a local, regional and national level.

“This idea was born out of discussions around the legislation being proposed on both sides of the state line that would ban transgender athletes from participating in sports,” says Jessica Blubaugh, Director of WIN for KC. “There is so much evidence that supports the idea that playing sports dramatically improves physical and mental health. We don’t think anyone should be denied the opportunity to benefit from that access – and we know other girls-serving organizations feel the same.”

“We teach our girls to stand up for themselves and others and this is one of those moments that we are living our values. All individuals deserve a safe place to belong and we are creating community to make that so,” says Gina Lichte, President/CEO of Girls on the Run of Kansas City. “Transgender youth experience higher rates of depression and participating in activities like Girls on the Run and Camp WIN give them a much needed outlet. Plus, joining forces with WIN for KC allows us to show the strength in our connectedness which is another lesson we want to pass along to our girls.”

Organizations interested in supporting the efforts of *Let Them Play KC* should email [LetThemPlayKC@gmail.com](mailto:LetThemPlayKC@gmail.com).

Visit [LetThemPlayKC.org](http://LetThemPlayKC.org) for more information.



#LetThemPlayKC

### **About WIN for KC**

The Women’s Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC), was established in 1994 under the umbrella of the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission, with the mission to ignite girls and women through advocating and promoting the lifetime value of sports and fitness, while providing opportunities for participation and leadership development. WIN is a volunteer, membership-driven organization that operates as a program of the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation. For more information, visit [WINforkc.org](http://WINforkc.org). For the latest on WIN for KC news, follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

### **About Girls on the Run of Greater Kansas City**

Girls on the Run Serving Greater Kansas City inspires 5,000+ girls each year across 19 counties in Kansas and Missouri. Girls in third through eighth grade explore 20+ life skills over the course of an eight week season. Social-emotional learning is woven with physical activity to teach girls self-confidence and a lifetime appreciation for health and wellness. Each practice is led by trained volunteer coaches that guide and mentor the girls. At the end of season, all participants completing a celebratory 5k event which gives them a tangible sense of achievement and a framework for setting and achieving life goals. For more information, visit [www.gotrkc.org](http://www.gotrkc.org).

WIN for KC

2600 Grand Boulevard, Suite 100 | Kansas City, MO 64108 | 816.474.4652