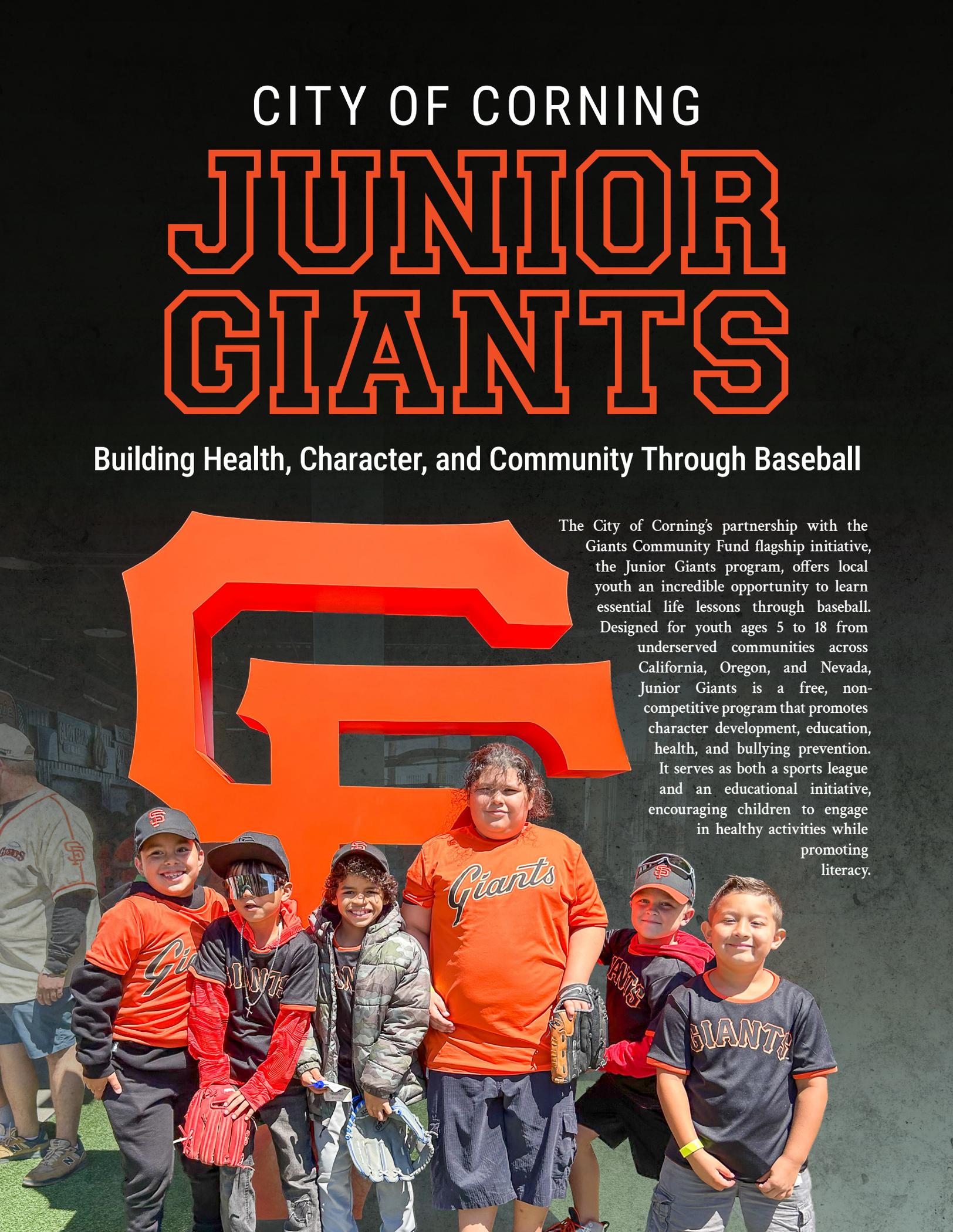


CITY OF CORNING

JUNIOR GIANTS

Building Health, Character, and Community Through Baseball



The City of Corning's partnership with the Giants Community Fund flagship initiative, the Junior Giants program, offers local youth an incredible opportunity to learn essential life lessons through baseball. Designed for youth ages 5 to 18 from underserved communities across California, Oregon, and Nevada, Junior Giants is a free, non-competitive program that promotes character development, education, health, and bullying prevention. It serves as both a sports league and an educational initiative, encouraging children to engage in healthy activities while promoting literacy.

In 2024, over 110 children and youth from Corning and Rancho Tehama participated in the Junior Giants 8-week summer program. With the guidance of structured practice plans and local support, participants engaged in activities that fostered athletic, academic, and social development. They built physical and cognitive skills – such as hand-eye coordination, throwing and catching, batting techniques, focus, and teamwork while working towards reading milestones as part of the program’s literacy initiative. A core part of the Junior Giants is its reading program, which aligns baseball-themed goals with reading achievement. This emphasis on literacy helps combat summer learning loss and inspires a lifelong interest in reading. One of the most memorable rewards is an invitation to the Junior Giants Festival at Oracle Park in San Francisco, California. At the park, the Corning children interact with youth from other communities across the three states, meet key staff members, and participate in a day filled with activities that celebrate their hard work.

“The Junior Giants program is an incredible opportunity for our kids, not only to learn the game of baseball but also to build valuable life skills,” said Jesenia Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator for the City of Corning. *“It teaches lessons in health, teamwork, and the importance of reading. Watching their faces light up when they find out they have been*

“ I am proud to be part of something that brings such meaningful and lasting experiences to our youth.”

JESENIA RODRIGUEZ

invited to Oracle Park is priceless. I am proud to be part of something that brings such meaningful and lasting experiences to our youth.”

The Giants Community Fund equips participants with nearly every item they need to play – gloves, helmets, safety gear, and athletic attire – which allows families with financial constraints to enroll their child in the program. The City of Corning Recreation Program is committed to ensuring every child interested in the program has the opportunity to join and gain the benefits of physical activity, teamwork, discipline, and greater mental strength.

Corning Promise has supported the program by dedicating resources to support the coordinator, who has worked tirelessly to ensure its success. The program’s expansion and popularity in Corning reflects its impact.

“Being able to offer a program that provides so many benefits to kids and ensuring it is accessible to families is something we, collectively, are proud of,” said Dawna Shchedrov, Corning Promise Director.

Looking to the future, the City of Corning plans to continue the Junior Giants program even after the grant funding to support the recreation program sunsets.

