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Players who are involved with educating and mentoring children and teens through programs and financial support:

Scholarships

Padres **Trevor Hoffman**, **Ryan Klesko** and **Woody Williams** have funded 80 Padres Scholars combined, thanks to \$200,000 from them and a match from team ownership.

Hank Blalock of the Rangers gave a \$10,000 scholarship to a local high school student, and teammate **Michael Young** awarded 10 scholarships to cancer survivors, including four at \$2,500 each (along with a laptop) and six at \$1,000.

During his pro career, **Keyshawn Johnson** of the Panthers has accounted for \$500,000 in scholarships to finance the college education of 25 kids. **LaDainian Tomlinson** of the Chargers gives 15 \$1,000 scholarships annually in both San Diego and Waco, Texas.

Jalen Rose of the Knicks each year gives five \$10,000 scholarships to Detroit high school seniors.

Mentoring

Chauncey Billups of the Pistons teamed with Regis University basketball coach Lonnie Porter to form the Porter-Billups Academy at Regis. With the help of a \$100,000 donation by Billups, the academy mentors 130 inner-city Denver youngsters during a three-week summer session. Graduates are monitored in high school, and the academy covers costs of those who eventually enroll at Regis (about \$24,000 per student).

Marcus Camby of the Nuggets has a mentoring program in which high schoolers help elementary school students weekly for two years. He has given the first four graduates of the program \$5,000 college scholarships.

Ashley Lelie of the Broncos has started Big Catches for Kids, a program that matches Denver

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receivers with little brothers for monthly activities with the kids.

Educational

Tony Clark of the Diamondbacks has an MVP program that provides the use of a stadium suite to reward top local athletes and fourth- to eighth-grade winners of an essay contest; Clark's program also offers tickets to needy groups and police and firemen and \$16,000 in scholarships to four worthy minority students.

Drew Gooden of the Cavaliers made possible the renovation of the Drew Gooden Reading and Learning Center at the East End Neighborhood House in Cleveland.

Keith Bulluck of the Titans partners with a computer training center to provide eight weeks of training for 12 needy teens from a foster care agency. He once was part of the foster care system.

Juwan Howard of the Rockets has a literacy challenge program within the Chicago school system that involves 50,000 kids; the top 300 attend his hoops camp for free and take classes on test-taking skills.

Mark Tauscher of the Packers, who had reading problems as a child, reads to elementary-age kids every Tuesday and has started a literacy improvement program within the Milwaukee public schools.

Nutritional

Donnie Edwards of the Chargers has launched a youth health program in the San Diego area; it creates fitness and nutrition efforts that promote better eating habits for children and adults and more participation in after-school activities. Youngsters get one hour of nutrition education and two hours of organized physical activities per week.

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