



Great Grants and Initiatives

Grantor: **Daniels Fund**

Grantee or Initiative: **Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Coaches of Excellence Program**

Amount: **\$75,000** Period of Grant Award: **2009**

When it comes to bad sportsmanship, Ron Olson has seen it all: taunts, abusive language, threats of violence – all just from parents whose children play in his neighborhood soccer league.

“I knew it was wrong when I observed another coach yelling at his 10-year-old players, telling them they were playing terribly and should be embarrassed,” said Olson. “Sadly the parents were standing nearby nodding their heads in agreement with the coach.” Olson had had enough of this behavior and decided to change the culture of youth sports.

That is how Coaches of Excellence, a program of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, was born. The program trains parents and coaches to communicate with youth and provide positive support and reinforcement, and move the focus from winning at any cost.

“I attended your Coaches Workshop Clinic...I truly came away with a better ‘feel’ in how to handle kids in the age range of 7-14 years old,” said Glen K. Higashide.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes impacts the nation’s athletes and coaches with a staff of more than 700 in over 300 offices across the country. The Daniels Fund grant specifically supported the Coaches of Excellence program in Colorado.