

## Feature Story: STC Donates New Playing Field to Stuart-Hobson Middle School in Washington, D.C.



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While efforts ranging from Let's Move to the CDC's new Childhood Obesity Demonstration Project urge youth to play outside to promote fitness, often kids don't have a place to go. On October 11, that changed for Stuart-Hobson Middle School in Washington, D.C., the recipient of a new synthetic playing field donated by the STC through the generosity of our members. Representing the first industry-wide collaboration of its kind, the initiative showcased how private industry can make a difference in the drive for increased childhood fitness.

"Although Stuart-Hobson has an incredible athletic program, we've lacked outside practice fields for our players," said Principal Dawn Clemens. "This new synthetic turf field will help all of our students increase their physical activity levels."

Despite its academic excellence, Stuart-Hobson Middle School previously had an asphalt playground that limited the ability of students to play team sports and increase their fitness levels. Unveiled during a "ribbon-breaking" ceremony, the new 13,200 sq ft, beautiful, safe, grass-like synthetic turf playing surface can be used by students year-round, even in the rain. Students, teachers, staff and parents enthusiastically embraced the playing field as a place of opportunity.

"I can't tell you how much the kids appreciate that someone cares enough to give them a field," noted Cherie Moore, parent of seventh grader Alexis Moore. "Now they can play and practice sports at school and still have time to do homework afterwards."



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