



# MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Week 12 Sideline Scoop | Carolina Panthers at Minnesota Vikings | November 29, 2020

## U.S. BANK HOMETOWN HERO

The Vikings will honor Minneapolis-based youth and community organization, **The Link**, as Sunday's U.S. Bank Hometown Hero. Founded in 1991 by Vikings Legends Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed, The Link supports North Minneapolis youth who are victimized by crime or are struggling with poverty and homelessness. The Link's 22 programs help provide supportive housing, intensive case management services and skills development to at-risk youth. They support over 2,000 young families and youth over seven counties across the Twin Cities Metro. Additionally, The Link recently opened the Dignity House emergency shelter for youth ages 10-17, which provides additional beds for runaway and homeless youth in the Twin Cities. Earlier this month, Jim Marshall surprised The Link CEO Beth Holger with a \$20,000 grant from the Vikings Social Justice Committee.

## GJALLARHORN SOUNDER

Sounding the Gjallarhorn will be **Founder and Executive Director of Project Success Adrienne Diercks**. Project Success is a youth-development organization that encourages young people while providing them resources to help them achieve their life goals. Adrienne founded Project Success in 1994 with 200 students at Minneapolis North High School and today the program has grown to serve more than 16,000 students and their families across the Twin Cities.

Adrienne was named a 2008 Minneapolis Saint Paul Business Journal "Woman to Watch" and has been honored with the Minneapolis Award for her outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the City of Minneapolis. Adrienne was honored with Ann Bancroft Foundation's "Dream Maker" Award for Achievement and Leadership and as a Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts River Valleys in 2017. In 2019, Adrienne received the WEM Foundation's Outstanding Educator Award for Excellence in Education, honoring her many years of leadership and dedication to inspire a spirit of learning in students.

In addition to her role at Project Success, Adrienne is the President of the Minnesota Women's Economic Roundtable and a member of the Women Presidents' Organization. She is a graduate of the James P. Shannon Leadership Institute.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Minneapolis-based chart-topping singer **Jovonta Patton** will perform a pre-recorded rendition of the National Anthem prior to Sunday's game.

In 2016, Jovonta's album "Finally Living" topped the Gospel charts while landing at No. 12 on the Christian & Gospel Album sales chart. In 2018, Patton later topped the Gospel charts with his album "The Best Me" and his recent 2019 Album, "Sanctuary," became his third number one Gospel album. Most recently, Jovonta topped the Billboard Digital Sales chart for his song "Worth It".

## VIKINGS DISTRIBUTE 1,500 THANKSGIVING MEALS TO TWIN CITIES COMMUNITY



On November 24, the Vikings partnered with UnitedHealth Group to distribute 1,500 meals via drive-through outside U.S. Bank Stadium, providing Thanksgiving meals to families in the Twin Cities.

Volunteers arrived before 8 a.m. to begin packing bags with pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, stuffing and crescent rolls. Families were handed a turkey when they received their bag of food in the drive-through.

Seven Vikings Legends – Hall of Famer John Randle, Ben Leber, Mike Harris, Ryan Hoag, Brooks Bollinger, Tuineau Alipate and Marqueis Gray – and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey were on hand to help pack and distribute the meals.

Of the 1,500 meals distributed, more than 300 were loaded onto Vikings Table – the Minnesota Vikings Foundation's charity food truck – to ensure those with inadequate transportation would also receive a meal. Vikings Table has distributed more than 16,000 meals since the COVID-19 pandemic began.