

Meet Andy Schindling, Founder & CEO at The Complete Player Charity

Jim Ries: Hello and welcome to Java with Jim. I'm Jim Ries, Director of Business Development at Offit Kurman. Joined here today with Andy Schindling, Founder and CEO at TCP Youth Empowerment. Andy, how are you today?

Andy Schindling: Great, Jim. Definitely looking forward to this man. I've been following it for a while, so I'm excited to be a part of it.

Jim Ries: Likewise. And you're one of my new Andy friends. There's a handful of you. We've had a little fun with that at networking events. Yeah, man. Andy, let's jump in. Tell us about TCP Youth Empowerment. What do you do there and how do you serve the community around you?

Andy Schindling: So our main objective is to pour love, hope, and inspiration into the underserved youth in Northern Anne Arundel County.

We do that in a variety of ways, ranging from third through eighth graders, and really working towards empowering our future workforce by equipping them with the character confidence and emotional intelligence they need to be successful in life. How we serve, we go in during the school days [00:01:00] where we serve 80 kids during the school day and through afterschool programs where we're serving about 180 between three schools.

And then we wrap it all together in the summer to just have a lot of fun and continue with the enrichment.

Jim Ries: So how long does the program last for a participant, a student?

Andy Schindling: So if it's during the school day, it's all year. So we take kids from the second week of school to the end of the year. After school, at the elementary school level. There's three 10 week sessions. Some kids repeat, some don't. At the middle school, it's a 30 week program that encompasses business and leadership. So it's pretty much the whole school year.

Jim Ries: So there's a beginning and an end.

Andy Schindling: Yes.

Jim Ries: Got it. Andy, when it comes to TCP Youth Empowerment, what are you most proud of?

Andy Schindling: Internally, the culture we've built. It's around, you know, growing our employees and putting them in positions to lead and take initiative. Program wise, I [00:02:00] would say I'm most proud of the work that our kids do. So our middle school kids create ideas and improve the quality of life in their community.

And we've been doing that for five years and had made a huge dent in Brooklyn Park when it comes to the litter issue, as well as serving homeless kids and foster kids through their projects.

So I'm really proud of that.

Jim Ries: A lot to be proud of. For sure. So I know you got some programs getting ready to kick off.

What will you and TCP Youth Empowerment be focused on in the next six months?

Andy Schindling: So great question. We embarked on having our middle school kids create a fully youth led leadership event, which is going down on MLK day. That's very exciting for us because it's gonna be the program that we're going to roll out through the high school levels next year.

So I'm very excited about that 'cause we haven't been able to engage our high school kids much since they got into high school last year. And I think that'll be the foundation for even more growth for our [00:03:00] kids. Not only are they having to deliver the content, but they're pretty much learning how to event plan and get sponsorships and recruit their peers to participate.

So I'm really excited about that 'cause it's really gonna set 'em up for success in the workforce. We're also closing up our first year of our strategic plan and growing our brand throughout the community. So I'm really looking forward to continuing to achieve the goals we set there. And then we'll be planning for summer camp.

We start planning in February for our summer camp, so we were looking to reaching out to some new businesses to partner with and expose our kids to some new jobs and opportunities.

Jim Ries: Man, you got a busy schedule. Good for you. A lot of great things happening. So Andy, here's the fun question. I might know the answer to this question.

Not sure what your answer's gonna be, but I might know it. What do most people watching this video not know about you?

Andy Schindling: I'm gonna assume they went on LinkedIn, so I gotta pick something not on LinkedIn. I will [00:04:00] say I am a. I'm a product of a household where there was conflict. So I'm a product of a child who grew up, very shy, very timid really reserved, felt uncomfortable in life unless I was on the athletic field. So that's something that nobody really knows, I've definitely stepped outta my shell recently, but I'm a product of, some youth trauma that impacted my ability to reach my dreams and full potential.

Jim Ries: Thank you for sharing that. So you mentioned you were yourself on the athletic field. Tell us more about that.

Andy Schindling: Yeah, so I was blessed enough to have really good abilities as an athlete, excelled at every sport, ended up getting drafted by the Orioles outta high school and which is part of my story as I got fired by the Orioles because of not having really good social emotional skills and bad character. So that's why I do what I do now. But yeah, I was just exceptional on the field and that was my sanctuary. When I was on the field, I felt alive. I felt like I was where I needed to be and was [00:05:00] supposed to be, and the cares of the world never bothered me.

Jim Ries: Awesome. Great story. Thanks for sharing it, Andy. And listen, I know I'll see you around. So thanks for spending time with me today.

Andy Schindling: I appreciate you, you putting me on this platform, giving me the opportunity, Jim.

Jim Ries: You betcha. See you later. Bye-Bye.

Andy Schindling: Bye.