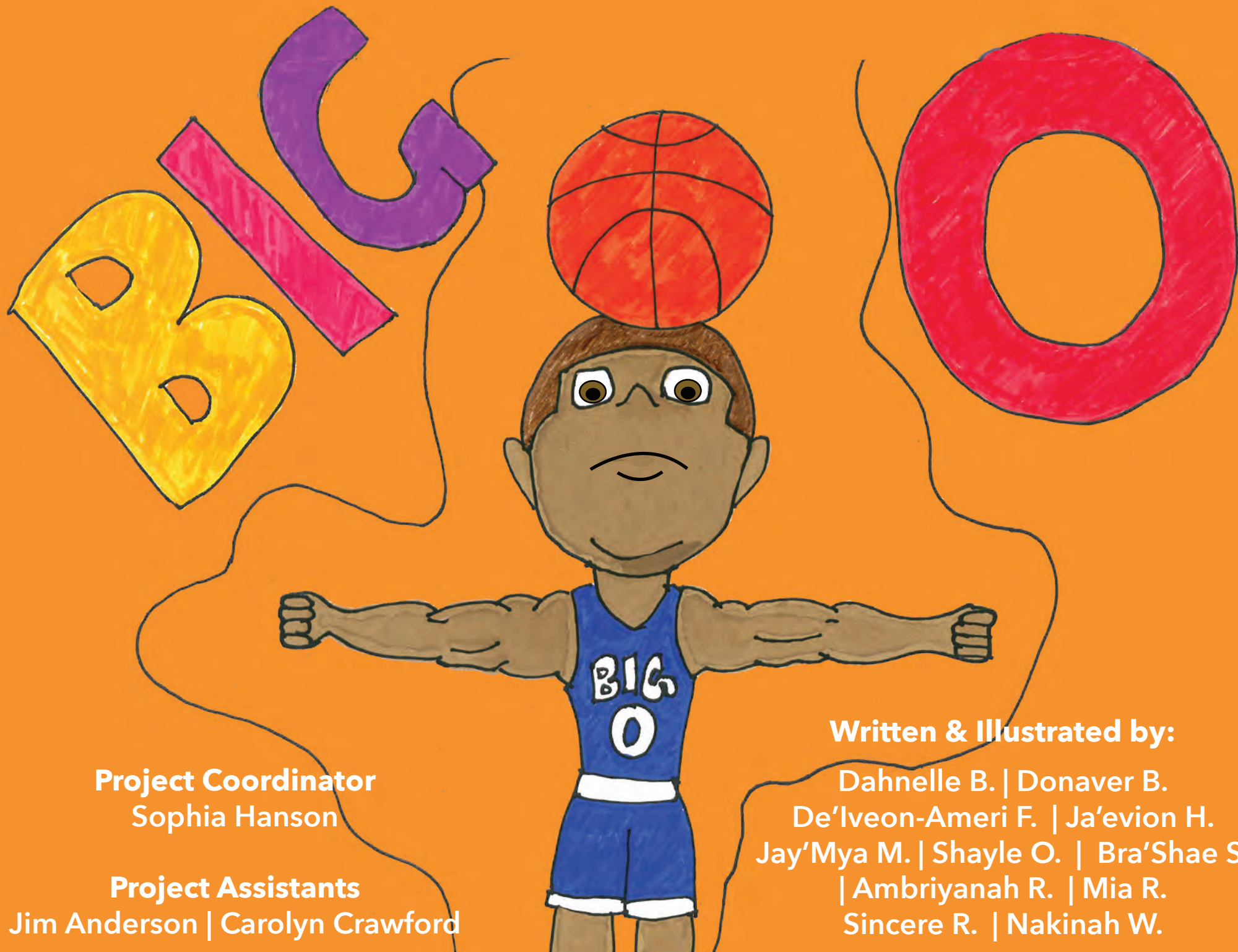


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2018

Youth Writers Workshop Sponsors



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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**Julie Dellacave | Ben Fulton | Barb McCougha
Michael Mitchell | Lynn Sparks | Roxie Stevison | Shelby Zimmer**

FOREWARD

"I want to commend the National Youth Foundation and the students at Winton Hills Academy for creating a biography on the legendary Oscar Robertson. His style of play was an inspiration to me and so many other players who followed in his footsteps, as he paved the way for big point guards to dream about playing in the NBA. He was an amazing basketball player and an even greater man.

Oscar Robertson was the best point guard in league history and changed NBA history as the first player to ever average a triple double for the season. With all of these successes, his greatest personal success was fighting for and securing health benefits for NBA players and creating what is now known as the NBA Players Association and Retired Players Association. An all-around team player, he exemplified the importance of being a leader on the court and helping everyone around him to get better. I am grateful to know him on a personal level as a friend and mentor."

~ Earvin "Magic" Johnson
NBA Hall of Famer

OUR MISSION

The National Youth Foundation is dedicated to enriching the lives of children through creative educational programming. Our mission is to promote tolerance and equality, while helping young students develop their literary skills through academic and team building projects.

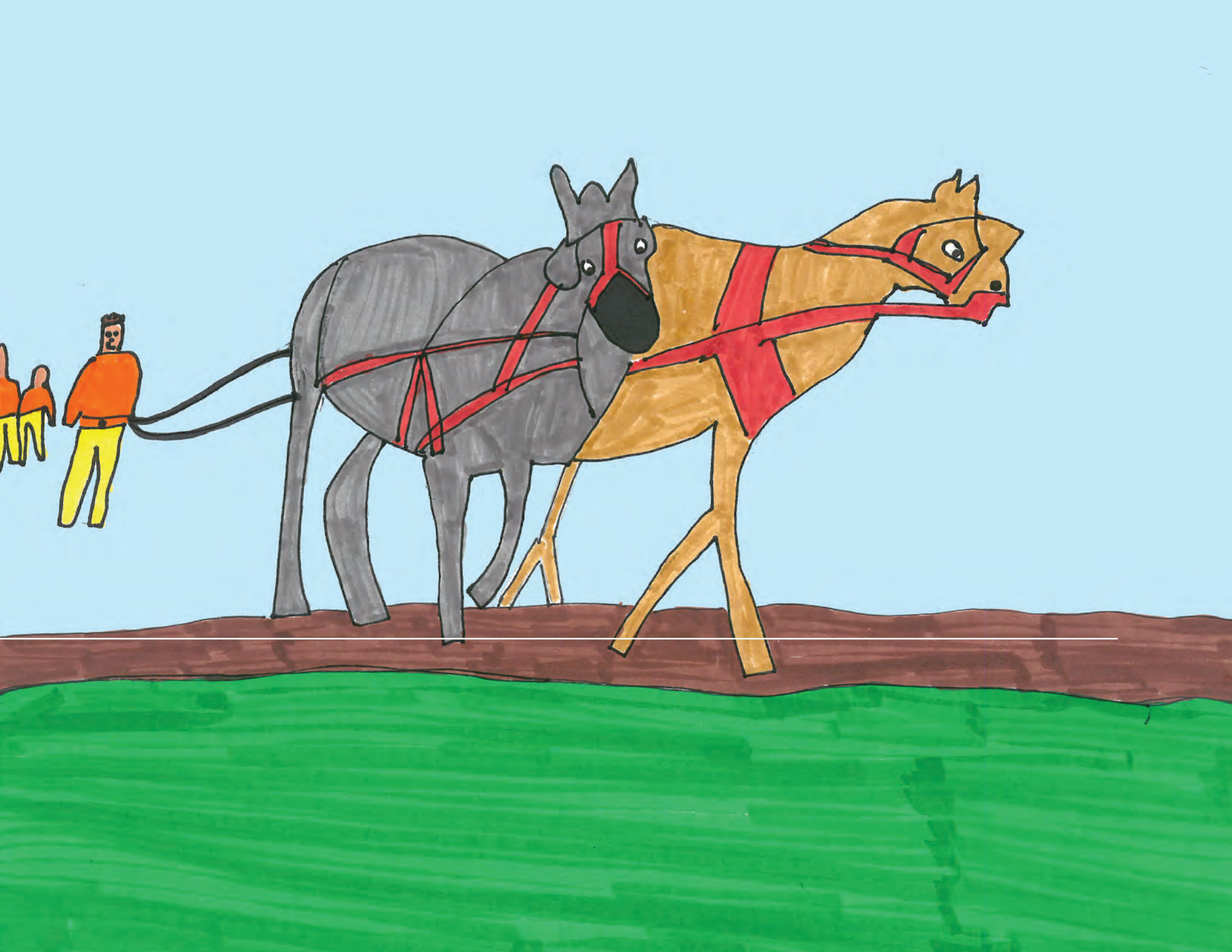
Sophia Hanson, *Executive Director*

NationalYouthFoundation.org

Oscar Palmer Robertson was born in Charlotte, Tennessee on November 24, 1938, which was Thanksgiving Day. In 1942, when Oscar was four years old, his family moved to Indianapolis, Indiana. This was an all-day bus trip through Tennessee and Kentucky. Oscar's aunt Inez already lived in Indianapolis and had recommended it to Oscar's dad, Henry. When Oscar was eight, his mom, Mazell, gave him a basketball. It was not his birthday, but it was the best present he ever received. Whenever he had free time, Oscar loved playing basketball with his older brothers, Henry and Bailey.



In the summer of his freshman year in high school, Oscar worked on his grandparents' farm in the south. When he was there, they called him by his first and middle name - Oscar Palmer. Working outside in the summer on a farm is really hard work. During this time, Oscar grew at least seven inches. At the time, he did not realize how much he had grown. Friends in Indiana saw him and could not believe how tall he had become. The height helped him become a better basketball player.



When Oscar was older, he attended Crispus Attucks High School, where he led an all African-American basketball team. His high school team was called the Crispus Attucks Tigers. Other high schools resisted playing his school at first, but state rules made it possible. His team became the first all African-American team to win the Indiana state championship. He was a great basketball player, but he was also a great student. When he was very young, he attended grade school with his older brothers, even though he was not yet of school age. In 1956, he received a scholarship to attend college at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. Oscar was the only African-American basketball player on his team.



Oscar met his wife Yvonne in college. She was studying to become a teacher. They got married and had three daughters. The names of his girls are Shana, Tia and Mari. They have been married for over 50 years. Oscar and his wife make a great couple.



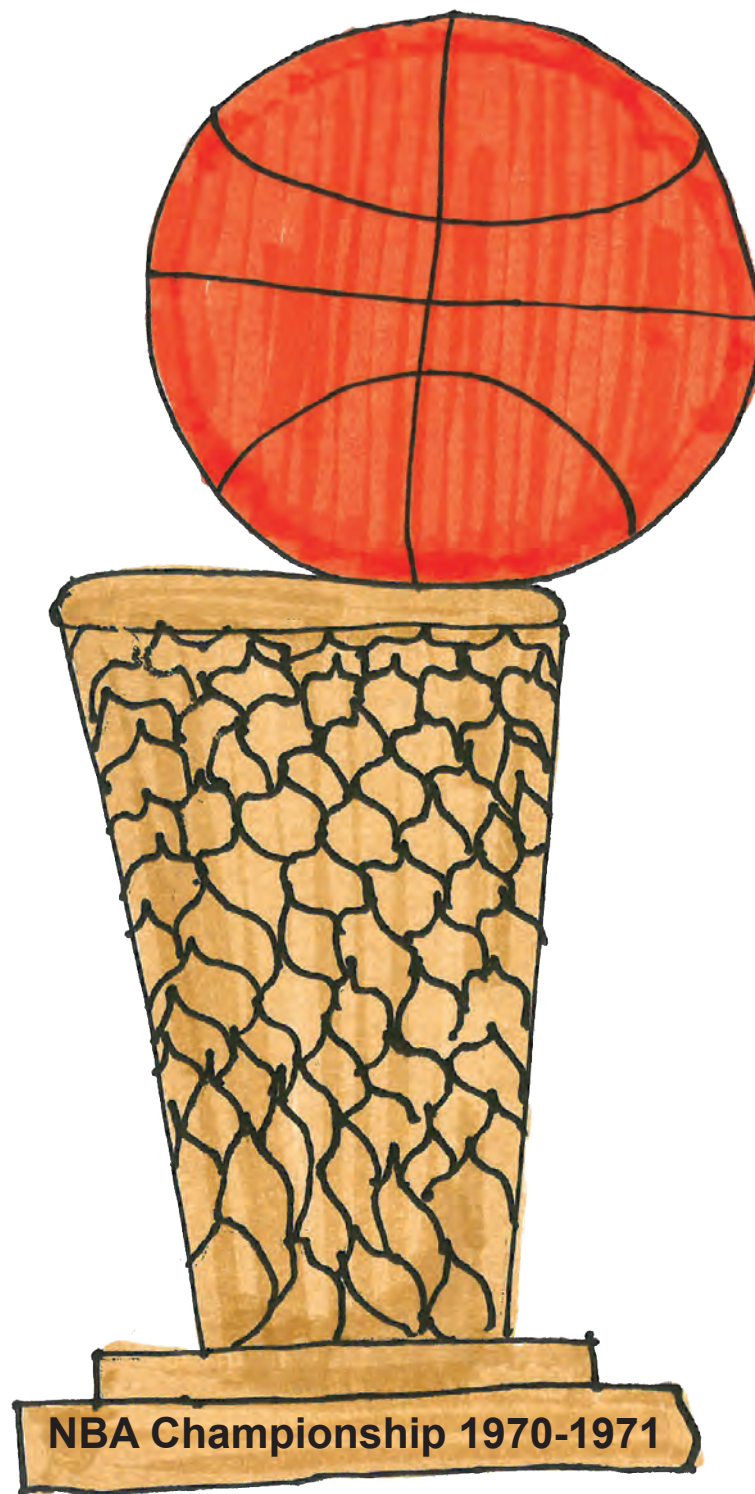
During his senior year of college, Oscar tried out and was chosen to play for the 1960 United States Olympic Team. The games were held in Rome, Italy. He was selected as the co-captain of the team. Oscar proudly represented the United States with two other prominent athletes, Muhammad Ali for boxing, and Wilma Rudolph for track. They were all stellar athletes and each won a gold medal.



Also in 1960, Oscar was drafted into the NBA by the Cincinnati Royals. It was very obvious to anyone who saw him that he was a very extraordinary player. He was the MVP of the NBA All-Star Game. Oscar was also named Rookie of the Year. He became the first player to average a triple double over a season. In college, a local radio announcer saw that other players had cool nicknames. He wanted Oscar to have one too, so he started calling him "The Big O." By 1960, this would become a household name.



After playing for the Cincinnati Royals for nine years, Oscar was traded to the Milwaukee Bucks in 1970. In Milwaukee, he played with Lew Alcindor who would later change his name to Kareem Abdul Jabbar. Oscar helped lead the Bucks to the NBA Finals. That year, the Bucks swept the Washington Bullets, which are now called the Washington Wizards, and won the 1970-71 NBA Championship.



Oscar was responsible for a very important rule change in basketball. The new rule stated that when a player did not have an additional year on his contract, he was free to sign with any team in the NBA. This is called the Oscar Robertson Rule. This was a very good rule to have because it gave support and power to the players.

NBA Free Agency

Empowered Players

Healthcare

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Oscar Robertson".

*R*ule

April 29, 1976

Power to Negotiate

G.O.A.T.

President of National Basketball Players Association

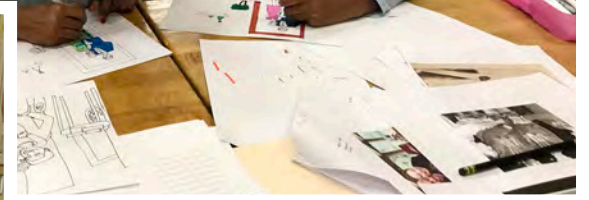
In the late 1990s, Oscar's daughter Tia became sick. Doctors said that she needed a kidney transplant. Lucky for the family, Oscar was tested and matched. Oscar was able to offer his daughter one of his kidneys. Tia is healthy today and together they advocate for kidney health.

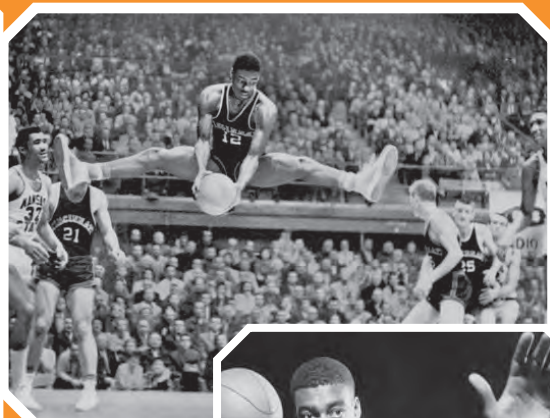


Oscar Robertson has won many awards and honors. He is consistently ranked one of the top 10 basketball players of all time. Current basketball players call him the G.O.A.T. (The Greatest of All Time). He was ranked the Player of the Century by the National Association of Basketball Coaches. He is very famous, but he still makes time to give back to kids. He is a superstar, a hero and a legend.



NBA OSCAR ROBERTSON
Milwaukee
GUARD





"As a friend and colleague of Oscar Robertson, I know him to be a very passionate and committed person. Motivated by his concern for the well-being of others, he fought for the rights of players across the league. I am proud to have known, played with and won an NBA Championship with this living legend."

~ Robert "Bob" Dandridge, Two-Time NBA Champion



"Needing a kidney transplant was a really scary time for me, but Dad and I went through it together. What could be better than to go through something like that with your Dad!"

~ Tia Robertson

"Oscar Robertson - NBA legend, an Olympic gold medalist, and a one-time national spokesperson for the former National Kidney Foundation U.S. Transplant Games - has been a champion in sports and in life. We applaud his great legacy on the basketball court and more so in donating a kidney to his daughter, giving her the gift of life - a vital takeaway for the kids who will read this book!"

~ National Kidney Foundation

