



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Bears honor outstanding high school coaches
- Bears/Jewel-Osco "Coat Drive" sets record
- Brendon Ayanbadejo hosts turkey giveaway
- Former Bear plays Santa for kids
- Show us your game face

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# It Bears Mentioning...

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2008

## Bears Holiday Giving



**The Bears and Bears Care donated \$25,000 to the USO of Illinois.**

Kicker **Robbie Gould**, line-backer **Rod Wilson**, guard **Josh Beekman**, defensive tackle **Babatunde Oshinowo** and Bears mascot **Staley** visited the USO Center at O'Hare Airport on Friday, December 21 to support the USO of Illinois and members of the U.S. military. USO of Illinois, the selected recipient of the Bears 2007 Holiday Giving Initiative, was presented with a check for \$25,000 from the Bears and Bears Care, the team's charitable beneficiary. For the past several years, the Chicago Bears and Bears Care have selected a local agency to support

with a monetary gift during the holiday season. A portion of this year's donation supported Exodus 2007, which occurred over a two-day period when thousands of military personnel passed through O'Hare and Midway airports on their way home for the holidays. The USO of Illinois centers at O'Hare and Midway serve as "Home Away From Home" areas for members of the military year-round, and these centers benefited thousands during the two-day exodus. The donation from the Bears and Bears Care enabled the USO to equip the airport centers with additional cots, televisions, movies and entertainment, food and beverages, reading material, and various other necessities to make the men and women of the military more comfortable during their long waits. The Chicago Bears and Bears Care extend sincere appreciation to our generous business partners who also supported this worthy cause: Cosi, Inc.; The Coca-Cola Company; Sportsline Distributors; Walgreens; Dick's Sporting

Goods; Gatorade; George Weston Bakeries; and Ty, Inc.

The goal of the USO of Illinois, both in times of peace and conflict, is to enhance the quality of life of the active duty men and women of the Armed Forces and their families through social, recreational, entertainment and educational programs and support services. In addition to Exodus 2007, Bears Care funds will help support ongoing USO operations and core programming at their Naval Service Command Great Lakes and Navy Pier locations. For additional information on the USO of Illinois visit [www.uso.org/illinois](http://www.uso.org/illinois).



**Rod Wilson visited the USO Center at O'Hare Airport.**

**EXODUS** **USO** **2007**  
USO of Illinois

*Sending those who serve home for the holidays*

BEARS CARE





## Bears Bowl



Danieal Manning posed for a photo with his team.

On Monday, November 5 over 20 Bears players, including tight end **Greg Olsen**, running back **Adrian Peterson**, quarterback **Brian Griese**, and safety **Danieal Manning**, participated in the first annual "Bears Bowl" at Pinstripes in Northbrook. Each player joined a corporate team for two games of bowling to help raise over \$65,000 for Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears. The evening's festivities also included dinner, cocktails and a

silent auction.

Bears Care is committed to improving the quality of life for people in the Chicagoland community, especially disadvantaged children and their families, through targeted programs supporting education, youth athletics, and medical research and health awareness programs focusing on breast and ovarian cancer. Since its inception in 1995, Bears Care has issued over \$13 million in grants to qualifying agencies.

For more information, please visit [www.ChicagoBears.com/community/bearscare.asp](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/community/bearscare.asp).



Jason McKie asked his teammates to sign his shirt.

## Coach of the Week



The 2007 "Coach of the Week" winners were honored at Soldier Field.

The Chicago Bears 2007 "Coach of the Week" winners were honored during an on-field presentation at the Bears vs. Giants game on December 2 at Soldier Field. This program recognizes outstanding high school football coaches who develop players' football skills and knowledge, character, discipline, and

teamwork abilities. 2007 winners included: Dave Mattio of Marian Catholic, Tom Shallenberger of Mahomet-Seymour, Paul Workman of Cerro-Gordo/DeLand-Waldon, Jim Stuglis of Crystal Lake South, Rob Glielmi of Lincoln-Way Central, Derek Leonard of Rochester, Tony Moken of Vernon Hills, Tim Haak of Harvard, and Mike Burzawa of

Driscoll Catholic. The Bears donated \$1,500 to each winning coach's school, and each honoree also received a framed autographed certificate and attended a Bears practice and "chalk-talk" with Head Coach Lovie Smith. Gary Korhonen of Richards High School and Matt Senffner were also honored for reaching over 300 career wins.

## Bears School Outreach



Rashied Davis visited Burnham-Anthony Elementary.

The Bears School Outreach program wrapped up another successful season when **Hunter Hillenmeyer** visited Haugan Elementary and **Dan Bazuin** visited Swift Specialty School in Chicago on November 27. Each Tuesday during the football season, players visited Chicago Public Schools

to speak to, motivate and interact with students. In 2007, 21 Bears players, including **Brendon Ayanbadejo**, **Dan Bazuin**, **Josh Beekman**, **Cedric Benson**, **Bernard Berrian**, **Rashied Davis**, **Antonio Garay**, **John Gilmore**, **Mike Hass**, **Hunter Hillenmeyer**, **Mark LeVoi**, **Terrence Metcalf**, **Greg**

**Olsen**, **Babatunde Oshinowo**, **Lousaka Polite**, **Tyler Reed**, **John St. Clair**, **John Tait** and **Jamar Williams** visited 20 Chicago Public Schools in support of the Bears School Outreach program. This program reaches over 7,000 students on an annual basis.



# Dick's Sporting Goods Holiday Shopping Spree



**Robbie Gould helped a young shopper pick out some new football gear.**

Kicker **Robbie Gould**, guard **Josh Beekman**, safety **Josh Gattis**, defensive end **Chris Frome** and mascot **Staley** joined 50 children from Chicago Housing Authority developments on Thursday, De-

ember 13 at Dick's Sporting Goods in Niles for an exciting evening of holiday shopping. The kids, ages 8-12, were selected to participate based on perfect school attendance and/or honor roll achievement. Dick's Sporting Goods partnered with the Bears for this event and provided each child with a \$100 gift card. Through a fundraising initiative led

by Robbie Gould, students from Warren Elementary School in Gurnee also supported this project and helped raise over \$1,000 to donate to the shopping spree. That donation was matched by Bears Care, which brought the total amount each child received to \$140. The Bears also provided bus transportation and dinner for the 50 deserving children.



*Roben Brown has served as a celebrity bell ringer in support of the Salvation Army's "Red Kettle Campaign" for the past three years.*

## Bears Honored for Community Service

The Chicago Bears organization and guard **Ruben Brown** were recognized for outstanding community service at The Salvation Army "Starlighter Dinner" on Thursday, November 15 at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago. Chicago Bears Chairman of the Board **Michael McCaskey** accepted the Corporate Partnership Award on behalf of the Chicago Bears, and Brown

was honored for his long-standing relationship with The Salvation Army. Brown continued his support of The Salvation Army on Tuesday, December 18 when he and teammate **Anthony Oakley** served as celebrity bell-ringers outside of the State Street Macy's store in Chicago to help raise awareness for the Red Kettle Campaign.



**Ruben Brown was honored for his work with The Salvation Army.**

## 19th Annual Chicago Bears/Jewel-Osco "Coat Drive"

Bears return specialist **Devin Hester** appeared at the Jewel-Osco store in Gurnee on Monday, November 26 in support of the 19th Annual Chicago Bears/Jewel-Osco "Coat Drive." Hundreds of fans came out to meet and receive an autograph from Devin in exchange for donating a winter coat. The "Coat Drive" ran from November 12, 2007—January 4, 2008 and

included a stadium collection drive at Soldier Field prior to the Bears vs. Giants game on Sunday, December 2.

It was a record-breaking collection campaign, with more than 27,600 coats collected at 185 Jewel-Osco stores, which will benefit The Salvation Army and public schools in the Chicagoland area. Thank you to all

of our generous fans for making the 19th Annual Chicago Bears/Jewel-Osco "Coat Drive" a huge success!



**Devin Hester supported the 19th Annual Chicago Bears/Jewel-Osco "Coat Drive."**





Make-A-Wish beneficiary, Brandon, was a Bear for the day at training camp.

## Making Wishes Come True

The Chicago Bears were proud to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Illinois and the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation by granting the wishes of eight children during the 2007 season. The children, along with their families, had the opportunity to visit Halas Hall to watch practice and meet their favorite players, including **Brian Urlacher**, **Rex Grossman**, **Devin Hester**, **Danieal Manning** and **Brian Griese**, to name a few. The families were also

given complimentary tickets to a Bears home game and were escorted down to the field to watch pre-game warm-ups from the sidelines at Soldier Field. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Illinois grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich their lives with hope, strength and joy. Since 1985, the Foundation has granted more than 7,500 wishes in the state of Illinois. The goal of the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation's "Small

Miracle" Program is to support pediatric cancer patients and their families as they face the many physical, psychological, and financial challenges that accompany the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric cancer by arranging for special events for the children, and providing supportive services for the families of patients. To learn more about these organizations, please visit [www.wishes.org](http://www.wishes.org) or [www.bearnecessities.org](http://www.bearnecessities.org).

## Take a Player to School

Guard **Roberto Garza** visited St. Luke School in River Forest on Tuesday, November 13 as part of the NFL "Take a Player to School" program. Roberto visited 8th grade students and spoke to them about the importance of in-school and after-school education. He also led kids in several fitness activities in support of the NFL's new "Play 60" fitness cam-

paign, helping youth get 60 minutes of exercise a day. To encourage children, ages 6-13, to stay in school and become involved in after-school programs, the "Take a Player to School" sweepstakes selected one winner in each of the 32 NFL markets and two non-NFL markets.



Roberto Garza participated in the "Take a Player to School" program.



Josh Beekman encouraged kids to read with a little help from a four-legged friend.

## Sit, Stay, Read!

Guard **Josh Beekman** visited Lowell School in Chicago on Tuesday, November 13 to present a check for \$7,500 to the "Sit Stay Read" literacy organization on behalf of Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears. Josh also read his favorite childhood

book, *Corduroy*, to second and third grade students and spoke about the importance of reading and education.

The mission of "Sit Stay Read" is to improve literacy skills and foster a love of learning by partnering "Sit Stay Read" therapy dog teams with children in Chicago area schools,

libraries and community facilities. For more information about "Sit Stay Read," please visit [www.sitstayread.org](http://www.sitstayread.org).



## Get Movin' and Win!!!



The Chicago Bears, Walgreens, and the American Heart Association are proud to bring the "What Moves U" fitness program to Chicago area schools. This program teaches middle school students about the importance of being physically active. The program was started in response to the ever increasing rate of childhood obesity and the continuing decline of physical education programs in many of America's schools and was devel-

**Bears play-ers encouraged kids to get movin' at a school assembly.**

oped for teachers of various academic disciplines to help them find ways to integrate physical activity into their daily lesson plans.

The Chicago Bears partnered with Walgreens to develop new, exciting ways for kids to get involved with "What Moves" on their own. Kids can visit the Bears Kid Zone at [www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone) each month to download the "What Moves U" Activity Journal, which is a calendar featuring fitness tips and activity suggestions to help encourage kids to stay healthy by getting at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day. The Activity Journal promotes pa-

rental participation as well by requiring the signature of a parent or guardian.

Once the child has completed three months, they can send the calendars to the Chicago Bears Community Relations department to receive a special prize! On April 30, 2008 the top 25 participants will be chosen, and three winners will be randomly selected to win a Chicago Bears bicycle. For more information about the "What Moves U" program, please call the Community Relations department at (847) 295-6600 or visit [www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone).



## Brendon Ayanbadejo's "Turkey Giveaway"

Linebacker and special teams stand-out **Brendon Ayanbadejo** hosted a turkey giveaway to benefit over 250 families in the Lathrop Homes housing development on Tuesday, November 20 at the Cotter Boys & Girls Club in Chicago. Brendon and several of his teammates, including **Hunter Hillenmeyer**, **Adam Archuleta**, **Rashied Davis**, **John Gilmore**, **Israel Idonije**, **Josh Beekman**, and **Brandon McGowan**, helped serve food at the Club's annual Thanksgiving dinner and distributed turkeys to each family in attendance. Brendon organized the event and made a personal monetary dona-

tion, which was matched by Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears, to purchase over 250 "Holiday Boxes" from the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Each of the "Holiday Boxes" contained a 10-14 lb. turkey, cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing, corn and yams. The Hungry Hills Sausage Company donated over 250 lbs. of sausage for the event, so each family also received a one-pound package of Italian sausage along with their "Holiday Box." Brendon, a Chicago native, lived in Lathrop Homes as a child with his mother and siblings. Since joining the Bears in 2005, he has been very active in

the Lathrop Homes community, donating his time and resources each Tuesday during the football season



**Brendon Ayanbadejo served Thanksgiving dinner at the Cotter Boys & Girls Club.**



## Staples Dream Park Challenge



Charles Tillman served as spokesman for the Staples "Dream Park Challenge with the Bears."

The results are in, and Lafollette Park in Chicago has been voted the winner of the Staples "Dream Park Challenge with the Bears!" The Chicago Bears and cornerback **Charles Tillman** teamed up with Staples to present this program, which will donate a total of \$50,000 to help beautify fourteen parks that host the Chicago Park District's Junior Bear Tackle Football program. From October 23 through December 31, 2007, over 319,000 people logged on to

[www.StaplesDreamPark.com](http://www.StaplesDreamPark.com) or visited their local Staples store to vote for their favorite park and enter a drawing to meet Charles Tillman. Lafollette Park, the first-place winner, will receive \$25,000. Dunham Park, in second-place, will receive \$10,000, and Ada Park, which finished in third-place, will receive \$5,000. The 11 remaining parks—Garfield, Hamlin, Jackson, Kelvyn, Kennicot, Lindblom, Ogden, Rainbow Beach, Trumbull, Washington and Welles—will each

receive \$1,000 for park improvements.

Lafollette Park will be announced as the official winner of the Staples "Dream Park Challenge with the Bears" at an event at Soldier Field on Monday, January 28. Thank you to everyone who helped make the "Dream Park Challenge" such a huge success! For more information about this program, please visit [www.StaplesDreamPark.com](http://www.StaplesDreamPark.com).

## Here Comes Santa Claus!

Bears alumni player **Glen Kozlowski** dressed up as Santa Claus and delivered toys to children at the American Brain Tumor Association's annual holiday party on Tuesday, December 11 at the Hilton Chicago Northbrook.

Before posing for photos and signing autographs for the kids, "Koz" came out on the stage to lead the children and their

families in a rousing rendition of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." He then handed out gifts for over an hour to all of the children in attendance.

The Chicago Bears have supported this event since 1999 by arranging for a player to don the Santa suit.



Glen Kozlowski served as Santa Claus at the American Brain Tumor Association's annual Holiday Party.



Josh Gattis and Anthony Adams visited the North Chicago VA Medical Center.

## Veterans' Day Visit

Defensive tackle **Anthony Adams** and safety **Josh Gattis** visited the North Chicago VA Medical Center in North Chicago on Tuesday, November 6 in honor of Veterans' Day. The players spoke with and signed autographs for veterans who are currently patients at the facil-

ity. This was the third consecutive year that Bears players visited a Chicago-area VA hospital in honor of Veterans' Day.

The North Chicago VA Medical Center's mission is a caring community, proud to provide patient centered, coordinated health care to Veterans, Navy

and all VA/DOD sharing patients. It consists of 150 operating hospital beds, 204 nursing home care beds, a 60-bed domiciliary for homeless veterans, and 89 beds for alcohol and drug abuse.



# Hello to Our Heroes

**STAPLES**

that was easy™



Running back **Adrian Peterson** and guard **Anthony Oakley** visited Bateman Elementary School in Chicago on Tuesday, November 27 in support of the Bears "Hello to Our Heroes" program. Through

**Anthony Oakley supported the "Hello to Our Heroes" program.**

this program, Adrian and Anthony helped students write letters to men and women of the military who are currently serving overseas. The "Hello to Our Heroes" program, which is brought to you by Staples, was developed by the Chicago Bears in 2005 in an effort to boost the morale of American soldiers. In support of this program, Bears players visit a different school each month during the football

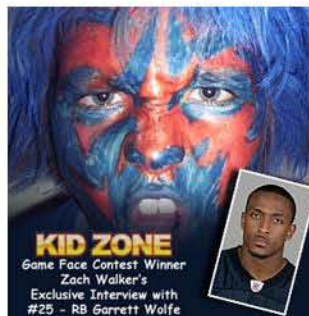
season to help a group of students write letters that will be distributed to troops by the USO. Staples provides letter writing kits to the students to assist them in writing letters to United States service men and women abroad. In addition, Staples provides letter writing kits to the military men and women overseas who receive the students' letters. For more information about the "Hello to Our Heroes" program, log on to [www.ChicagoBears.com/community](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/community).

## Show Us Your Game Face!

Congratulations to Zach Walker, the lucky winner of the Chicago Bears Kid Zone "Game Face" contest! Zach was awarded with a visit to Halas Hall on Friday, December 28 to watch the Bears practice, and he also had the opportunity to interview running back **Garrett Wolfe**. Zach asked Garrett about his path to the NFL, the challenges he faces as one of the smaller play-

ers on the Bears, and his interests off the field. You can check out Zach's exclusive interview with Garrett on [www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone).

Be sure to keep checking back with the Kid Zone for more fun contests, activities, and ways for you to win cool Bears prizes!



**Zach Walker was the winner of the Bears Kid Zone "Game Face" contest.**

## Punt, Pass and Kick

The Chicago Bears hosted the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick Team Championship on Saturday, November 24 in the Walter Payton Center at the Bears training facility in Lake Forest. All of the finalists participated in an on-field demonstration prior to the Bears vs. Broncos game on Sunday, November 25 at Soldier Field. The winners in each age division were announced during the second quar-

ter. Congratulations to all of the participants!

The NFL Punt, Pass and Kick program is grass roots skills competition for boys and girls ages 8-15 is offered at Chicagoland schools, through the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, several Chicagoland park districts, and school physical education classes. Children compete

against their peers in punting, passing, and place kicking. Log on to [nflyouthfootball.com](http://nflyouthfootball.com) for more information on NFL Punt, Pass and Kick and other youth football programs.



**The Bears hosted the NFL PPK Team Championship on November 24, 2007.**