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IN THIS ISSUE:

- NFL PLAY 60 “Super Kid”
- First Down for Fitness
- Bears High School “Coach of the Week” Program
- Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps
- Bears Virtual Book Drive
- PLAY 60 Challenge
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Symetra “Heroes in the Classroom”
- Bears/Boeing Military Salute
- NFL Punt, Pass and Kick
- Bears Care joins Chicago Marathon Charity Program

It Bears Mentioning...

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER/JANUARY 2011

Making Holiday Wishes Come True



Major Wright played an interactive video game with a youngster from the Chicago Park District during the Bears/United Holiday Party at Soldier Field.

Chicago Bears Vice Chairman **George H. McCaskey**, mascot **Staley da Bear** and the 2010 Bears Rookie Class, including **Chris Johnson**, **Joshua Moore**, **Harvey Unga**, **J'Marcus Webb**, **Corey Wootton** and **Major Wright**, joined nearly 500 deserving children and families at the United Club at Soldier Field on Tuesday, December 7 for a holiday party hosted by the Chicago Bears, Bears Care and United Airlines. Sporting their jerseys and Bears “Santa” hats, the players visited with the guests and assisted with a variety of activities, including musical chairs, “Pilot Says,” Bears “Baggo” games, Mrs. Claus’s book fair, football toss, cookie decorating, karaoke, Kinect Sports video games, crafts and more.

Bears staff, coaches and players, along with United Airlines employees, had the opportunity to “adopt” a child or family and grant their holiday wishes by

purchasing items on their wish lists, as well as volunteer their time at the party. The seven non-profit organizations that benefitted from this holiday giving initiative included Chicago House, Humboldt Park Social Services, James Jordan Foundation, Mercy Housing, Facing Forward to End Homelessness, the Chicago Park District Youth Football programs and Cornerstone Community Outreach. The Chicago Bears extend special thanks to SMG, Sportservice, Safety Service Systems, Coca-Cola, Blondie’s Cookies and Wm. Meyers Movers for their generous support of this holiday party.

Bears School Outreach

The Bears School Outreach program wrapped up its 13th successful season on Tuesday, December 14 when linebacker **Nick Roach** visited Chase Elementary School and guard **Edwin Williams** appeared at Southside Occupational Academy in Chicago. This season, Bears players visited 18 different Chicago Public Schools to speak to, motivate, and interact with students as part of the Bears School Outreach program, which is brought to you by the University of Phoenix, the Official Education Partner of the Chicago Bears. The theme for player visits was character development, goal setting, commitment to excellence, and the importance of leading a healthy, active lifestyle.

Players who participated in the Bears School Outreach program in 2010 included: **Anthony Adams**, **Johan Asiata**, **Kahlil Bell**, **Earl Bennett**, **Zack Bowman**, **Desmond Clark**, **Caleb Hanie**, **Chris Harris**, **Tommie Harris**, **Greg Olsen**, **Frank Omiyale**, **Nick Roach**, **Kevin Shaffer**, **Craig Steltz**, **Edwin Williams** and **Garrett Wolfe**.



Greg Olsen visited Stowe Elementary in support of the Bears School Outreach program.

Spreading Holiday Cheer

Several Bears players took time out of their schedules to brighten the holidays for kids and families during the holiday season. Defensive tackle **Anthony Adams** dressed up as Santa and delivered toys to children at the American Brain Tumor Association's annual holiday party on Tuesday, December 14. This was the 3rd consecutive year that Anthony has donned the Santa suit and the 12th that the Bears have supported this event.

That same day, the wives of several Bears players hosted their 5th annual holiday party to benefit 160 kids from the SEDOL (Special Education District of Lake County) Foundation. **Desmond Clark, Robbie Gould, Patrick Mannelly, Brad Maynard, Greg Olsen, Craig Steltz, Charles Tillman** and **Rod Wilson** visited with children as they ate lunch and participated in a variety of holiday activities.

On Tuesday, December 21—the day after the Bears NFC North Division-clinching win over the Minnesota Vikings—several Bears players were out and about in the community giving back to deserving individuals. **Anthony Adams, Matt Forte, Tommie Harris, Nick Roach, Matt Toeaina, Rod Wilson** and **Edwin Williams**, as well as team Chaplain Ray McElroy, joined volunteers from Phil's Friends at Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago and the Medical Center's pediatric and adult oncology clinics, where they delivered care packages to cancer patients and their families. After surviving a difficult battle with Stage 4B Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Phil Zielke founded Phil's Friends charity in 2005. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, Phil's Friends reaches out to thousands of cancer patients and their families with a message of hope and compassionate support. To learn more, please visit www.philsfriends.org.

Middle linebacker **Brian Urlacher** visited Lowden Homes on Chicago's west side to distribute gifts, including brand new Nintendo DSIs, to over 25 children associated with UCAN youth agency. Brian took pictures, signed autographs and joined the kids and their parents for lunch before heading over to Advocate Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn where he went room to room, delivering toys that he purchased for over 70 patients who were going to be spending the holidays at the facility.

Later that afternoon, quarterback **Jay Cutler** delivered some early holiday cheer to children at the University of Chicago's Kovler Diabetes Center and Comer Children's Hospital. Handing out presents purchased by the Jay Cutler Foundation, Jay spent time visiting with children and their families.



Photo by Bruce Powell Photography

Jay Cutler delivered toys and cheer to young patients at Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago during the holidays.

NFL PLAY 60 "Super Kid" Surprise Visit



Robbie Gould offered some kicking advice to Ava Childs during a visit to her school. Ava was selected as the 2010 "NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid."

Kicker **Robbie Gould** surprised 5th grader Ava Childs with a visit to her school on Friday, January 7 after she was selected as the *NFL's PLAY 60 Super Bowl Contest* winner. After visiting Ava in her classroom at Briar Glen Elementary in Wheaton, the group moved to the gymnasium for a kicking demonstration where both Robbie and Ava showed off their skills in front of Ava's classmates. Robbie also presented Ava one of his game-worn jerseys, which she wore throughout the visit. Although he needed to take the jersey back to wear on the following Sunday during the Bears Division Playoff game, Robbie sent Ava an autographed #9 jersey for her to keep.

Ava's entry for the *NFL PLAY 60 Super Bowl Contest* described her desire to become the NFL's first female kicker. In her essay, she wrote "Not only is Robbie an accurate kicker, but he stuck with his dream to be an NFL player... Also, Robbie is very polite in his interviews. I want Robbie to be my coach when I am in the NFL in 2022!"

Health and fitness are a priority in the Childs family. Ava plays on sports teams year round and takes plenty of walks with her parents. Her health exercise goals include doing "100 curl-ups every day" and making smart eating choices. As Childs, noted, "I even like broccoli!"

The *NFL PLAY 60 Super Bowl Contest*, now in its fourth year, is part of the NFL's PLAY 60 campaign, aimed at getting kids active for 60 minutes a day. As this season's 'NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid,' Ava participated in a number of activities during the week leading up to Super Bowl XLV, including the NFL PLAY 60 Kids' Day at the NFL Experience interactive theme park, and took part in NFL FLAG skills and drills as well as a youth football clinic. She also handed the game ball to an official moments before kickoff of Super Bowl XLV in front of thousands of fans and a worldwide television audience. Ava's entry was selected by an NFL judging panel from more than 17,000 submissions. For more information about NFL PLAY 60, please visit www.NFLRUSH.com.

First Down for Fitness

Linebacker **Rod Wilson** joined trainers from AthletiCo Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy at the Boys & Girls Club of Lake County in Waukegan on Tuesday, December 28 to celebrate the finale of the “First Down for Fitness” program, which was designed to help children at the Boys & Girls Club achieve the goal of being active for 60 minutes a day. Over 40 children participated in a fitness clinic led by Rod and the AthletiCo trainers, which featured warm-ups, stretching and a variety of activity stations. The “First Down for Fitness” program was created in 2009 by the Chicago Bears and is sponsored by AthletiCo. This program is one component of the Bears ongoing commitment to the NFL’s PLAY 60 initiative, which focuses on making the next generation of youth the most active and healthy by encouraging them to get 60 minutes of physical activity every day.



Rod Wilson led kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Lake County in fitness activities.



The 2010 Bears “Coach of the Week” winners were honored during a snowy game at Soldier Field on December 12.

Coach Lovie Smith.

Bears “Coaches of the Week”

The Chicago Bears 2010 “Coach of the Week” winners were honored during a presentation at half-time of the Bears vs. Patriots game on Sunday, December 12. This program recognizes outstanding high school football coaches who develop players’ football skills and knowledge, character, discipline, and teamwork abilities.

The 2010 “Coach of the Week” winners include: Mark Stilling of Schaumburg High School, Josh Cavanaugh of Ridge Farm/Chrisman High School, Dante Culbreath of Simeon Career Academy, Chuck Ahsmann of Crystal Lake South High School, Mark Vander Kooi of Lincoln-Way West High School, Joe Sanchez of Barrington High School, J.D. Lorton of North Mac High School, Brent Pearlman of Prospect High School and Mike Morrissey of Thornridge High School.

The Bears donated \$1,500 to the football programs at each winning coach’s school. In addition to being guests of the Bears at Soldier Field on December 12, each “Coach of the Week” honoree received a framed autographed certificate and attended a Bears practice and “chalk-talk” with Head

Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps

Registration is now open for Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps. During the summer of 2011, the Chicago Bears will offer over 25 week-long, non-contact football camps in various communities throughout Chicagoland. Each five-day camp runs Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Kids will learn to run, throw, catch, defend and compete...the Chicago Bears way. All programs provide football instruction, athletic skill development, fitness and agility training. Camps are led by professional coaches with supplemental instruction from Chicago Bears Camps Heroes such as **Robin Earl, Allan Ellis, Kris Haines, Mickey Pruitt** and more. Through these community based programs, the Bears are making high quality and safe football experiences available to both experienced players and newcomers to the game. Early registration discounts are available. Visit www.BearsCamps.com or call (312) 226-7776 for more information.



Bears Virtual Book Drive

Please join the Chicago Bears and ComEd by participating in our Virtual Book Drive, which will benefit two deserving schools in Chicago. Fans can visit www.ChicagoBears.com/community to purchase books that will be donated to either Pope John Paul II School in the Brighton Park neighborhood or St. Margaret of Scotland School in the Washington Heights neighborhood.

The Chicago Bears and ComEd are committed to promoting literacy and we thank you for your continued support of the Virtual Book Drive and Bears community outreach programs.

Bears “PLAY 60 Challenge”

Safety **Danieal Manning** visited Kingsley Elementary School in Evanston on Tuesday, December 7 to celebrate the school’s success in the 2010 Bears PLAY 60 Challenge.

The Chicago Bears and the American Heart Association joined forces to present the Bears PLAY 60 Challenge fitness program in four local schools this fall. The Challenge educates children about staying fit and creates an engaging and fun environment at school that seeks to inspire students to be physically active for at least 60 minutes every day, both in school and at home.

Danieal’s visit to Kingsley was a reward for the school’s successful integration of the Bears PLAY 60 Challenge over a four-week period. Kingsley’s fifth-grade class logged the highest average minutes of physical activity per student among the four participating schools, and all Kingsley students participated in the program to get more physically active.

Manning conducted a brief Q&A session with the students and participated in a special fitness assembly led by Stretch-n-Grow North, Inc., a youth fitness and health education program that makes it fun for kids to get fit and make healthy eating choices. Stretch-n-Grow sessions incorporate all of the fundamentals of safe and healthy exercise, including warm-up, endurance, floor exercise, stretching and cool-down.

For more information about Stretch-n-Grow, visit www.stretchngrownorth.com, and for more information about the NFL’s PLAY 60 movement, please visit www.NFLRUSH.com.



Danieal Manning participated in the Bears “PLAY 60 Challenge” finale event with Stretch-n-Grow North, Inc.

Ronald McDonald House Charities



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
CHICAGOLAND &
NORTHWEST INDIANA

Charles Tillman and the Bears have teamed up with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana (RMHC®-CNI) to help build the world’s largest Ronald McDonald House, right here in Chicago. The new House, set to open in 2012, will be located at 211 E. Grand Avenue in Chicago and will provide a “home away from home” for 86 families each night while their children are being treated in nearby hospitals.

Bears Care has committed funds to the new House and we are asking our incredible fans to do the same. If you can help us raise \$50,000, Bears Care will be able to sponsor a Bears themed room in the new House.

To make a donation in support of this incredible project, please visit www.RonaldHouseChicago.org, and click on the Bears Care logo. Let’s go Chicago, this is our House!

Symetra Heroes in the Classroom

The Chicago Bears and Symetra would like to congratulate the following teachers for being named a 2010 “Symetra Hero in the Classroom”: Jennifer Connolly of Zion Central Middle School, Sondra Davis of Owen Scholastic Academy, Jamie DiCarlo of Oak Terrace Elementary School, Leslie Russell of Chicago Virtual Charter School, Brad Parker of Locke Elementary School, John Mason of Orland Junior High School, Connie Oriente of Jerling Junior High School, Matt Blue of Waubonsie Valley High School, Hayley Keller of Josephinum Academy, Mike Pasiak of Gower Middle School, John Dexl of Julia S. Molloy Education Center, Michelle Sevedge of Richard E. Byrd School, Alan Hirsch of Clarence Culver School, Jennifer Ritchie of River Trails Middle School, Rebecca Naughton of Argo Community High School and Mario Weston of Ashburn Community Elementary School.

The Chicago Bears and Symetra Financial partnered to bring the Symetra “Heroes in the Classroom” program to schools throughout Chicagoland. Presented locally by Gallagher Benefit Services, the program recognized Chicago area teachers for outstanding leadership and instructional skills. Sixteen K-12 teachers were named a Symetra “Hero in the Classroom” during the 2010 Bears season. Each winning teacher was recognized with a surprise presentation at their school, where they received a \$1,000 donation to their school, a \$250 gift card for classroom books and supplies, and tickets to a 2010 Bears home game.



Craig Steltz and Caleb Hanie visited River Trails Middle School and Clarence Culver School where they announced two of the “Symetra Heroes in the Classroom.”



Bears/Boeing Military Salute

At each 2010 Bears home game, the Chicago Bears and Boeing were proud to honor a deserving member of the military during an on-field recognition during the third quarter. The Military Salute provided the opportunity for the Bears, Boeing and our great fans to give thanks and support to those who protect our country and to also honor the history and heritage of Soldier Field. Tickets for the military representative and their guests were generously provided by linebacker **Brian Urlacher** through his participation in the Bears "Home Team Hand-Off" ticket donation program.

The following military representatives were recognized during the Bears/Boeing Military Salute in 2010: Specialist Melissa Krueger, Sgt. First Class Adam Bolthouse, MK1 Robert J. Gasparas, Sgt. Timothy Popp, First Sgt. Vince Edward Blackman, Sgt. First Class Shaun Anthony Silas, Private First Class Irving Abramson, Lt. Colonel Gary Smith, Staff Sgt. Sal Giunta, Master Sgt. Sheldrick McNeal, Sgt. Chris Hansen and Major Joe Frescura.

Boeing is a Proud Partner of the Chicago Bears.

Sgt. Timothy Popp was honored during the Bears/Boeing Military Salute.

Staley's "First and Goal"

Cornerback **D.J. Moore** and mascot **Staley da Bear** visited Bell Graham Elementary School in St. Charles on Tuesday, December 14 to speak to students about the importance of healthy living as part of Staley's "First and Goal" program. Bell Graham had the highest completion percentage (90%) for the six-week fitness challenge. During the pep rally, the school was awarded the "First and Goal" traveling trophy. The high-energy "First and Goal" program combines education and comedy in an effort to jump start students' desire to begin living a smarter and healthier life. For more information about the "First and Goal" program, please contact Scott Adams at (847) 615-9600 or visit www.ChicagoBears.com/staley/.



D.J. Moore and Staley visited Bell Graham Elementary School in St. Charles.



The Algonquin Argonauts participated in the Mascot Melee Bowl as part of the Bears PLAY 60 festivities.

PLAY 60 at Soldier Field

A variety of fitness and youth football activities were featured during the Bears vs. Eagles game at Soldier Field on Sunday, November 28, which was designated by the Bears as the team's "PLAY 60" game. Youth football players from the Algonquin Argonauts were selected as the Bears' PLAY 60 ambassadors for their commitment to health and wellness. The Argonauts were coached by former Bears wide receiver Marcus Robinson and played in the Pop Warner 11-year-old division. As part of the festivities, the youngsters led Bears players out of the tunnel during team introductions and also participated in the "Mascot Melee Bowl" at halftime, playing football against Bears mascot Staley and his furry friends. Staley was joined by mascots from several different professional sports teams in Chicago and from across the country, including the Chicago Bulls, Chicago White Sox, Chicago Blackhawks, Chicago Wolves, Chicago Rush, Joliet Jackhammers and Philadelphia Eagles.

The Bears were also featured in a special NFL PLAY 60 television spot that debuted over Thanksgiving weekend. The 90-second spot featured team executives and players from around the league, including Bears defensive end **Israel Idonije**, joining with local children to get healthy and active. The Thanksgiving games also included a 30-second United Way PLAY 60 PSA that featured Idonije and the **2010 Bears Rookie Class**. These unique spots can still be viewed at www.nfl.com/thanksgiving.

The NFL and the Chicago Bears are committed to helping kids get active and healthy. For more information about the Bears involvement in the PLAY 60 movement, please visit www.ChicagoBears.com/community or www.NFLRUSH.com.



NFL Punt, Pass and Kick

The Chicago Bears hosted the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick Team Championship on Saturday, November 27 in the Walter Payton Center at the Bears training facility in Lake Forest. Finalists participated in an on-field passing demonstration prior to the Bears vs. Eagles game at Soldier Field on Sunday, November 28, and the winners in each age division were announced during the game.

The top four scorers in each age group from around the country qualified as national finalists, and the Bears were thrilled to have two are children advance through our local team championship. Luke Adams of Hinsdale, from the Boys 6-7 year-olds division, and Haley Leanna of Grayslake, from the Girls 10-11 year-olds division, joined 38 other young football players from around the country in Atlanta on Saturday, January 15, where they competed in the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick National Finals prior to the NFC Divisional Playoff Game. Congratulations, Luke and Haley!

NFL Punt, Pass and Kick is a grass roots skills competition for boys & girls ages 8-15 that 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 www.NFLyouthfootball.com for more information on NFL Punt, Pass and Kick.



Luke Adams and Haley Leanna represented the Bears at the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick National Finals in Atlanta.



B E A R S C A R E

most underserved neighborhoods.

To sign up, simply visit www.chicagomarathon.com to register for the Chicago Marathon. Toward the end of the form where you are asked "RUNNING FOR A CHARITABLE CAUSE?" please select "Bears Care" in the "ASSOCIATE LEVEL" section of the drop-down list.

After registering for the marathon, sign up and join the Bears Care team. Please have your marathon registration confirmation number ready. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Matt Simeone at 847-739-5418 or matt.simeone@bears.nfl.net.

For complete information and to see the incentives that will be offered to members of the Bears Care Team, please visit <http://www.chicagobears.com/community/bcchicagomarathon.asp>.

Bears Flag Football Champions

Congratulations to Neuqua Valley High School for earning the title of 2010 Bears Flag Football Champions! The Bears annually host a 32-team flag football league for high schools in the Chicago area that offer flag football as an intramural sport. The semi-final and championship games were played in the Walter Payton Center at the Bears training facility in Lake Forest on Saturday, October 30. The Neuqua Valley players and coaches were guests of the Bears at Soldier Field on Sunday, November 28 when the Bears defeated the Philadelphia Eagles. They were honored during an on-field ceremony at halftime.

