



# IT BEARS MENTIONING.....

January 2007

## HOLIDAY GIVING



Gabe Reid poses for a photo among items donated to A Safe Place by Bears players, coaches and staff members.

Chicago Bears tight end **Gabe Reid** visited A Safe Place/Lake County Crisis Center on Monday, December 18 to deliver toys and gifts as part of the Bears 2006 holiday giving initiative. These items, donated by Bears players, coaches, and staff members, helped fill the shelves in the holiday store located in the agency's new transitional living facility. The holiday store offers clients of A Safe Place the opportunity to shop for complimentary gifts for their family members including apparel, games, sporting equipment, and department store gift cards that have been donated by the

community. For the past several years, the Chicago Bears Football Club has selected a local agency to support with a monetary gift during the holiday season. The Club's donation is matched by Bears Care, its charitable beneficiary. Prior to the Bears vs. Packers game on December 31, representatives from A Safe Place were presented with this year's gift, a check for \$20,000 for support of their programs and facilities. A Safe Place/Lake County Crisis Center provides shelter, transitional housing, court advocacy, referrals and comprehensive counseling programs for victims of domestic violence - women and children who have been physically and/or emotionally abused.

## BRIGGS 4 KIDZ

Bears linebacker **Lance Briggs** joined 50 children from Chicago Housing Authority developments on Tuesday, December 12 at the South Loop Target store for an exciting evening of holiday shopping. The kids, ages 8-12, were selected to participate in the shopping spree based on perfect school attendance and/or honor roll achievement. Each child received a \$200 Target gift card from Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears, using funds raised by Lance's "Briggs 4 Kidz Jock-n-Bowl" charity bowling tournament. Thanks to Target's donation of an additional \$32.<sup>50</sup> per gift card, each child received a total of \$232.<sup>50</sup>. Each of the 50 children also received a Bears "Santa" hat, a "Briggs 4 Kidz" backpack, and a two-piece sweat suit, courtesy of Lance Briggs, the Chicago Bears, and Nike.



Lance Briggs hosted a holiday shopping spree for children from the Chicago Housing Authority.



Danieal Manning demonstrates the correct way to do push-ups during an assembly to kick-off the *What Moves U* program.

# WHAT MOVES U

Bears linebacker **Brendon Ayanbadejo** and safety **Danieal Manning** appeared at Chute Middle School in Evanston on Tuesday, December 5 to help the Chicago Bears and American Heart Association kickoff the *What Moves U* fitness program at an assembly for more than 600 middle school students. The players led students in various fitness exercises, emphasizing the importance of stretching, strength and endurance. They also assisted with a trivia game to help educate the kids about the importance of nutrition and being physically active.

*What Moves U* is a national program that was created by the NFL and the American Heart Association in response

to the ever increasing rate of childhood obesity and the continuing decline of physical education programs in many of America's schools. The unique aspect of the *What Moves U* program is that it was developed for teachers of various academic disciplines to help them find ways to integrate physical activity into their daily lesson plans. This initiative incorporates several key elements: an in-school activity kit created for teachers, by teachers, which includes curriculum-based activity sheets, program-specific learning materials and school promotional materials; and an interactive fitness-focused website for children. The program includes an interactive web site, [www.WhatMovesU.com](http://www.WhatMovesU.com), where kids can log on to learn more about the importance of physical activity, and where teachers can download the in-school activity kit. To learn more about the *What Moves U* fitness program, please visit [www.WhatMovesU.com](http://www.WhatMovesU.com).



MSgt. Chris Miller and Cameron Worrell pose for a photo with students from Fairview Elementary School.

# A VERY HAPPY HOMECOMING

Bears safety **Cameron Worrell** was joined by a very special guest when he visited Fairview Elementary School in Hoffman Estates on Tuesday, December 5 in support of the Bears "Hello to Our Heroes" program. **MSgt. Chris Miller** received letters from students at Fairview through this program while he was stationed in Kabul last year. He recently returned home to Evanston after serving with the U.S. Air Force in Afghanistan and couldn't wait to meet the children who had sent him letters the year before. The kids were equally

thrilled to find out their letters made it overseas, and to meet one of their heroes in person. Cameron and MSgt. Miller helped the group of students write more letters to be sent overseas to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. As part of the "Hello to Our Heroes" program, which is sponsored by Staples, a Bears player visits a different school once a month during the football season to help students write letters that the USO will distribute to American troops serving overseas. Staples provides letter writing kits to the students, as well as to the service men and women who receive the students' letters.



# THE GIVING SEASON

Bears kicker **Robbie Gould** spent time at the Dominick's store in Northfield on Monday, December 18, and defensive end **Israel Idonije** visited the Clybourn Dominick's in Chicago on Tuesday, December 19 in support of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Bears/Dominick's "Coat Drive." Fans had the opportunity to meet Robbie and Israel in exchange for donating a coat. Over 13,000 coats were collected this year that will benefit the Salvation Army and public schools in the Chicagoland area! Thank you to all of our generous fans for helping to make the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Bears/Dominick's "Coat Drive" a huge success!



Equipment Manager Tony Medlin and kicker Robbie Gould posed next to coats that were collected during a visit to Dominick's.

## SCHOOL OUTREACH

The 11<sup>th</sup> season of the Bears School Outreach program concluded on Tuesday, December 5 when **Muhsin Muhammad** visited Southside Occupational Academy and **Todd Johnson** visited Stewart Elementary School in Chicago to speak to, motivate, and interact with students. Each Tuesday during the football season, Bears players visited different Chicago Public Schools to talk to kids about the importance of education, character development, goal setting, and commitment to excellence. Bears players **Bernard Berrian, Desmond Clark, Rashied Davis, Justin Gage, Rex Grossman, Robbie Gould, Chris Harris, Tommie Harris, Hunter Hillenmeyer, Todd**



Todd Johnson helped hand out fitness awards to students from Stewart Elementary during a visit in December.

**Johnson, Jason McKie, Terrence Metcalf, Fred Miller, Muhsin Muhammad, Anthony Oakley, Gabe Reid, J.D. Runnels, John Tait** and **Cameron Worrell** visited 21 different Chicago Public Schools and spoke to over 7,000 students in 2006.

## THANK YOU!!!

The Chicago Bears Community Relations department would like to thank **Mike Brown, Roberto Garza, Rex Grossman, Muhsin Muhammad, Adewale Ogunleye, Lovie Smith, John Tait, Charles Tillman, and Brian Urlacher** for their participation in the Bears "Home Team Hand-Off" ticket donation program during the 2006 season. These generous Bears purchased a total of 2,060 tickets which were donated to 14 different Chicagoland charitable organizations, providing deserving children with the opportunity to see a Bears game at Soldier Field. A child from each organization also had the thrill of serving as an "Honorary Captain" at a Bears home game, where they walked out to mid-field with the Bears captions during the coin toss prior to kickoff.



Kids from Special Olympics Illinois and Mercy Home for Boys & Girls served as honorary captains at the Bears vs. Seahawks game.

# METCALF DELIVERS HOLIDAY CHEER

Chicago Bears guard **Terrence Metcalf** dressed up as Santa Claus and delivered toys to children at the American Brain Tumor Association's annual holiday party on Tuesday, December 19 at the Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling. Over 60 children and their families from across the greater Chicago metropolitan area attended the party. The Chicago Bears have supported this event since its inception in 1999 by arranging for a player to don the Santa suit.



Terrence Metcalf dressed up as Santa and delivered toys to children from the American Brain Tumor Association.

## A FRIEND IN NEED

Fullback J.D. Runnels visited the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago on Tuesday, December 26 to help lift the spirits of Travis Hearn, a Rock Island teenager who was recently paralyzed while playing high school football. J.D. also joined Rocky Clark and Rob Komosa, two other former high school football players who suffered catastrophic spinal cord injuries while playing high school football, in presenting a check for \$10,000 to Hearn to be put toward the purchase of a wheelchair-accessible van. The \$10,000 donation was generated through sales of the book, *Great Moments in Football Halftime*. This book is a compilation of stories, anecdotes and interviews from nearly 50 accomplished football coaches from NFL and college teams, including Bears head coach Lovie Smith. Proceeds from the book will benefit Rocky, Rob and Travis. In addition, a portion of the proceeds will help establish a foundation to assist any future high school football player who suffers a catastrophic spinal cord injury. *Great Moments in Football Halftime* can be purchased at Bears games, in the Pro Shops and at Gate 1, or online at [www.robkomosa.org](http://www.robkomosa.org) or [www.rockyclark.org](http://www.rockyclark.org).



## KICKS FOR A CAUSE

Kicker **Robbie Gould** partnered with Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears, to host a holiday party for children at Kids Hope United in Lake Villa on Tuesday, December 19. Each of the 34 boys who are part of the CARE program at Kids Hope United received a new pair of athletic shoes, backpacks and other gift items, including a Play Station 3 game system for each residence on the campus! They also enjoyed a holiday lunch provided by Robbie. Students from Warren Elementary School in Gurnee participated in this project as well and raised funds to purchase equipment for the Kids Hope United recreation area. Kids Hope United serves at-risk, abused and neglected boys between the ages of 10 and 17 through their CARE program. For more information about Kids Hope United, please visit [www.KidsHopeUnited.org](http://www.KidsHopeUnited.org).

