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It Bears Mentioning...

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER/OCTOBER 2009

Real Bears Fans Wear Pink



The Bears coaching staff wore RBFWP t-shirts during practice on 9/29 at Halas Hall.

The Chicago Bears and Bears Care would like to thank all our fans who joined in the fight against breast cancer by supporting the "Real Bears Fans Wear Pink" t-shirt campaign! The exclusive "Real Bears Fans Wear Pink" t-shirts were available for \$15 during the month of September, leading up to the Bears vs. Lions game on Sunday, October 4, 2009, when the Bears and the NFL officially recognized National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our goal was to have fans throughout Soldier Field wear their "Real Bears Fans Wear Pink" t-shirts to show their support for the cause. In

one month, the shirts generated over \$90,000 in net proceeds! Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears, will distribute those funds to organizations in the Chicagoland area that provide care, assistance and support services to breast cancer patients and their families.

During the Bears vs. Lions game, fans saw various elements that the NFL has incorporated into the recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, such as pink wristbands, pink cleats, pink caps, pink ribbon stencils, pink end zone pads, and much more. The elements will be present at NFL stadiums throughout the country during the month of October.

Bears Care was delighted to have the support of NorthShore University HealthSystem, an institution committed to delivering quality health care, in expanding this appeal to Bears fans everywhere. Bears Care and the Chicago Bears also wish to thank TLK Marketing of Wheeling, IL and Ultimate Screen Printing for their generosity and support of the "Real Bears Fans Wear Pink" initiative.

Get Up and Get Movin'!

The Chicago Bears, Walgreens, and the American Heart Association joined forces to activate the "Play 60 Challenge" fitness program in seven Chicago area schools this fall. The Challenge kicked off on Tuesday, September 29 at Soldier Field where students from all seven participating schools joined together for a lively and energetic assembly. Defensive backs **Corey Graham** and **Danieal Manning** participated in the assembly of over 1,200 students by talking about the importance of living a health and active lifestyle and leading the entire group in various fitness activities. The assembly also featured a performance by "Jumpers of Fire," the American Heart Association's jump rope team, and **Sondra Solarte** of FOX Chicago emceed the event. The "Play 60 Challenge," which will run for six weeks, teaches the importance of exercise and physical fitness by creating an engaging and fun environment around health that compels kids to be active for at least 60 minutes a day...every day. For more information about the Play 60 initiative, please visit www.ChicagoBears.com/community or www.NFLRUSH.com.



Danieal Manning and Corey Graham participated in the kick-off event for the "Play 60 Challenge."



Back-to-School Fair

On Saturday, August 1, Bears Care, Catholic Charities—Diocese of Joliet, and TeamSmile hosted a Back-to-School Fair on the campus of Olivet Nazarene University for nearly 1,000 deserving students from the Kankakee area. Over forty area social service agencies participated and provided information and free services such as vision testing, diabetes screening and haircuts to those in attendance.

Dr. Bill Busch and TeamSmile offered free dental health education, digital x-rays and screening, and provided a wide array of state-of-the-art dental treatments onsite to the kids free of charge, including fillings, extractions and root canals. DJ Kirby provided lively music and videos to entertain the crowd, and prize giveaways, face painters and games added to the festive mood. The Fair also featured visits from Head Coach **Lovie Smith** and several Bears players, including **Anthony Adams, Jason Davis, Israel Idonije, Tommie Harris, Brad Maynard, Adewale Ogunleye, Adrian Peterson,** and **Matt Toeaina**.

Doctors with TeamSmile offered a variety of free dental treatments to students during the Back-to-School Fair at Training Camp.

As the children departed, they each received a box containing their school supplies for their upcoming year and a healthy lunch! In addition to Catholic Charities and TeamSmile, support was also provided by Gallup and Midwest Dairy Association. Bears Care is the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears.

Staples “Dream Park Challenge with the Bears”

The Chicago Bears and running back **Matt Forte** have teamed up with Staples for the third consecutive year to present the Staples “Dream Park Challenge with the Bears.” Through this program, Staples will donate over \$45,000 to help improve 14 parks in the city of Chicago and its surrounding suburbs. From September 15 through November 16, Chicagoland residents can log on to www.StaplesDreamPark.com to vote for their favorite park. The park receiving the most votes will receive \$25,000, second-place \$10,000 and third-place will receive \$5,000 to go towards park improvements. The 11 remaining parks will receive \$500 each.

Residents are allowed to vote once per day for their local park. People can also pick up a “Power Card” at any Chicago-area Staples store to have their online vote count 10 extra times. Voters will also be automatically entered into a drawing to meet Matt Forte at an event at Soldier Field to announce the winning park. For a complete list of participating parks and to learn more about the Staples “Dream Park Challenge with the Bears,” log on to www.StaplesDreamPark.com. Remember to vote early and vote often to help improve your park!



Field of Dreams



Israel Idonije spoke to the Orr Academy High School football team before they played the first game on their newly renovated field.

Defensive lineman **Israel Idonije** joined Senior Director of Special Projects **Patrick McCaskey** at Orr Academy High School on Saturday, September 5 to help unveil the newly renovated football field and track on the school's campus during a special dedication ceremony. Following the ceremony, Idonije visited with the Orr Academy football players and helped them prepare for their first home game of the season.

The renovation project was made possible in part by a \$200,000 matching grant that was facilitated by the Chicago Bears through the NFL Grassroots Program. The funding was used to replace the grass football field at Orr Academy High School with a synthetic sports surface and surrounding track. The new field and track are available to all athletic activities at Orr Academy, and the field will also be home to the elementary school football program that includes more than 200 participants.

The NFL Grassroots grant, awarded by the Bears, the NFL Youth Football Fund (NFL YFF) and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), is part of \$2.5 million in field refurbishment awards allocated this year. This marks the third consecutive year that a Chicago area high school received a \$200,000 grant through this program.

Happy Campers

The Chicago Bears were pleased to host several special groups from different Chicago area organizations while at Training Camp in Bourbonnais during the month of August.

On Sunday, August 2 the Bears held a camp for the National Sports Center for the Disabled where 100 children throughout the state of Illinois participated in a football skills clinic, led by volunteers from Variety—The Children's Charity. After an hour of hard work, the kids and their families had the opportunity to stay and watch practice from their own private seating area.

The Bears were happy to welcome athletes from Special Olympics Illinois on Monday, August 17 to the campus of Olivet Nazarene University. The athletes had the chance

to work on their own football skills at Gatorade Junior Training Camp where they were put through drills and a football-based obstacle course before heading over to eat lunch and watch practice from their private seating area. Following practice, the athletes were thrilled to receive a visit from linebacker **Brian Urlacher**. Brian annually purchases and donates a block of season tickets to Special Olympics Illinois through the Bears "Home Team Hand-Off" ticket donation program, giving the athletes a chance to experience a Bears game live at Soldier Field. Head Coach **Lovie Smith**, wide receiver **Rashied Davis**, center **Olin Kreutz**, and cornerback **Charles Tillman** also stopped by after practice to sign autographs for the group.

Tuesday, August 18 was "Youth Football Day" at Bears Training Camp. Youth football players and cheerleaders were encouraged to wear their team jerseys or t-shirts and stop by the "Youth Football Day" booth for a chance to win cool prizes like tickets to a Bears pre-season game, autographed memorabilia, and Bears fan packages. As part of the day's festivities, the Bears also hosted over 80 youth football players from the Chicago Park District's "Junior



SOI athletes raced through the obstacle course at Gatorade Jr. Training Camp.

Bear Tackle" youth football league, who participated in Gatorade Junior Training Camp, and watched practice from their reserved seating area.

On Wednesday, August 19, Head Coach **Lovie Smith** and his entire coaching staff continued a tradition of community spirit by donating bicycles to 24 deserving children from the Bourbonnais/ Kankakee area following the Bears evening practice at Ward Field. The bikes were used by the coaching staff to get around the Olivet Nazarene University campus throughout Training Camp. The Kankakee County Sheriff's Department and Illinois State Police worked with the Kankakee County Youth Intervention Agency to identify the 24 worthy youngsters. The boys and girls ranged in age from 10-15 years old, represented all different ethnic backgrounds and live in different areas throughout Kankakee County.

Approximately 15 children and their families from the Starlight Children's Foundation were also guests of the Chicago Bears at Ward Field on August 19. The group was treated to a special visit

from Bears mascot **Staley** during practice, and had the opportunity to meet cornerback **Charles Tillman** afterwards. The Starlight Children's Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses and life-altering injuries by providing entertainment, education and family activities that help them cope with the pain, fear and isolation of prolonged illness. For more information about the Starlight Children's Foundation, please visit www.starlight.org.

For more information about activities offered at Bears Training Camp in Bourbonnais during the month of August, please visit www.ChicagoBears.com/events.



Charles Tillman signed autographs for kids from the Starlight Children's Foundation.



A young fan got some help doing football drills at Training Camp.



Youth football players from the Chicago Park District took a break from watching practice to pose for a photo.



Touchdowns for Diabetes

During the 2009 Bears season, cheering for quarterback **Jay Cutler** means cheering for kids with diabetes. Eli Lilly and Company (Lilly) and the American Diabetes Association (ADA) are teaming up to help send children with diabetes to summer camps through the Touchdowns for Diabetes camp scholarship program. For every touchdown pass Jay throws during the 2009 season, Lilly will send a child to diabetes camp by donating \$1,000 to the ADA's Camp Scholarship fund—roughly the cost of providing tuition for one child to attend a week of diabetes camp. And for every pass Jay completes in 2009, Lilly will donate \$100 to the ADA Camp Scholarship fund to allow even more kids the chance to attend camp next summer.

For every touchdown pass Jay Cutler throws in 2009, Lilly will donate \$1,000 to the ADA to send a child to diabetes camp. Lilly will donate \$100 for each completed pass.

Since learning he had type 1 diabetes after his second season in the NFL, Jay has worked to help inspire children with diabetes to achieve their goals, and let them see that diabetes doesn't have to stop them from being who they want to be. After playing in his first Pro Bowl in February, Jay teamed up with Lilly in the offseason to visit children's hospitals across the country and visit with families affected by diabetes. "I've met a lot of kids through my hospital tour with Lilly that have inspired me as I enter my second NFL season with diabetes," Jay said. "Parents and kids have told us how important diabetes camps are to helping children learn how to manage diabetes—and to help them understand that thriving with this condition isn't just possible, it's within reach. Every kid should have the chance to experience diabetes camp, and I'm proud to work with Lilly to make this more achievable for families across the country."

Lilly has a long history of supporting diabetes camps and has donated \$100,000 to the ADA's Camp Scholarship fund in the last two years alone through the Inspired by Diabetes art campaign. For more information about diabetes camps, please visit www.diabetes.org/camp or www.diabetescamps.org or www.touchdownsfordiabetes.com.

Generous Bears

Head coach **Lovie Smith** and seven generous Bears players will have their own cheering sections during home games at Soldier Field in 2009 thanks to their participation in the Bears "Home Team Hand-Off" ticket donation program. Through this program players and coaches have the opportunity to purchase a block of season tickets and donate them to the charity of their choice. The charity then distributes the tickets to deserving children, giving them the chance to experience a game at Soldier Field.

The following Bears are participating in the "Home Team Hand-Off" program in 2009:

Roberto Garza presents "Roberto's Amigos" in support of Los Amigos de Roberto; **Tommie Harris** presents "Harris' Heroes" in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lake County and the Tommie Harris Foundation; **Israel Idonije** presents "IZZYz KIDz" in support of the Israel Idonije Foundation; **Jason McKie** presents "McKie's Troops" in support of the Jason McKie Foundation; **Adewale Ogunleye** presents "Wale's Warriors" in support of By the Hand Club for Kids; **Lovie Smith** presents "The Smith Crew" in support of Misericordia; **Charles Tillman** presents "Peanut's Gallery" in support of Gift of Hope; and **Brian Urlacher** presents "Urlacher's Backers" in support of Allendale Association, Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, Chicago Youth Centers, Midtown Educational Foundation, Special Olympics Illinois, Teen Living Programs, and UCAN.



Members of "Wale's Warriors" with By the Hand Club watched the Bears take on the Steelers at Soldier Field.



Earl Bennett, Hunter Hillenmeyer and Patrick McCaskey visited Jordan Community School on September 15.

Bears School Outreach

The Bears School Outreach program kicked off for the season on Tuesday, September 15 when wide receiver **Earl Bennett** and linebacker **Hunter Hillenmeyer** visited Jordan Community School in Chicago to speak to, motivate, and interact with students. Each Tuesday during the football season, Bears players will visit different Chicago Public Schools to talk to kids about the importance of education, character development, goal setting, commitment to excellence, and the importance of leading a healthy, active lifestyle. Now in its 12th season, the Bears School Outreach program reaches more than 7,000 students annually. To date, players who have participated in Bears School Outreach in 2009 include **Earl Bennett, Zack Bowman, Rashied Davis, Michael Gaines and Hunter Hillenmeyer.**

Chicago Bears / Jewel Osco “Coat Drive”



The 21st Annual Chicago Bears / Jewel-Osco “Coat Drive” will kick-off on Monday, October 5 with a press conference at Halas Hall. Several Bears players and Head Equipment Manager Tony Medlin will participate in the press conference, along with representatives from Jewel-Osco, The Salvation Army, and Wm. Meyers Movers. Coats can be dropped off at all 185 Jewel-Osco stores throughout Chicagoland beginning on October 5 through December 4, 2009. There will not be a stadium collection drive at Soldier Field this year, so please make sure to bring your new or gently used coats to a Jewel store near you! A store locator is available at www.JewelOsco.com or www.ChicagoBears.com/community. Thousands of coats will be collected this year as part of the 21st Annual Chicago Bears / Jewel-Osco “Coat Drive” benefiting The Salvation Army and public schools in the Chicagoland area.



Nikolas poses for a picture with some new friends following practice at Halas Hall.

Making Wishes Come True

18-year-old Nikolas Ritel wasn't sure where he was going when a limo arrived to pick him up on the morning of Friday, September 11. He received the surprise of a lifetime when he found out that he, his mother, grandmother and his brother were off to Halas Hall to spend the afternoon with the Chicago Bears, thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The group watched practice from the sidelines, and then Nikolas had the opportunity to meet the entire team, including his favorite player, linebacker **Brian Urlacher**. Bears players stopped by after practice to take pictures and visit with the group. Guard **Josh Beekman** also invited Nikolas to eat lunch with him and a few of his fellow teammates in the players' dining room.

When it was all said and done, Nikolas left with four pairs of receivers gloves, a football signed by the team, a video of the day's activities, and enough pictures to fill several photo albums. But Nikolas wasn't the only person to take something away from

the afternoon. Cornerback **Charles Tillman** received some additional motivation after Nikolas asked him to do seven push-ups the next time he scores a touchdown—one for each round of chemotherapy he has endured while battling a spinal tumor.

The Bears are proud to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Illinois by granting the wishes of deserving children each football season. For more information about Make-A-Wish, please visit www.wishes.org.

Hello to Our Heroes

On Tuesday, September 15 linebacker **Jamar Williams** visited Neal Math and Science Academy in North Chicago in support of the Bears “Hello to Our Heroes” program. Through this program, Jamar helped middle school students write letters to members of the military who have recently returned from service overseas. The “Hello to our Heroes” program, which is sponsored by Staples, was developed by the Chicago Bears in 2005 in an effort to help boost the morale of American soldiers. 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 who have recently returned to the United States from serving overseas. For more information on the “Hello to Our Heroes” program, log on to www.ChicagoBears.com/community.



Jamar Williams helped a student from Neal Math & Science Academy write a letter to a U.S. military veteran.



Save the Date for Bear Appetit!

Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears, will host an exciting new event, “Bear Appetit,” at Wildfire Chicago on Monday, November 16. The event will showcase specialties from various Lettuce Entertain You restaurants, with appearances by current and former Chicago Bears players, and samplings of fine wines. The event will also feature the unveiling of the 2010 Munro Campagna Calendar, “This is Our House,” highlighting the Bears themed work of twelve award winning artists who will also be in attendance. Proceeds benefit Bears Care, which is committed to fighting hunger by supporting organizations such as the Greater Chicago Food Depository. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.events.org/bearapp.

USA Football Day

The Chicago Bears were proud to welcome hundreds of youth football players to Soldier Field in celebration of “USA Football Day” on Thursday, September 3 when the Bears took on the Cleveland Browns in preseason action. Prior to the game, players from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago’s “Bears After-School Flag” football program and teams from the Chicago Park District’s “Inner City Flag” league formed a tunnel for Bears players to run through during starting line-ups. Teams from the Chicago Park District’s “Junior Bear Tackle” leagues joined Bears players on the sideline during the National Anthem. The evening’s festivities also included youth football demonstrations during halftime provided by the “Inner City Flag” and “Junior Bear Tackle” youth football leagues.

These activities were components of the Chicago Bears support of *USA Football Month*. This was the sixth consecutive year that the NFL and USA Football have teamed up to celebrate the start of football season with this great initiative.

The purpose of *USA Football Month* is to honor and salute the millions of boys and girls who participate in youth football programs across the country and to also promote the sport and intrinsic values gained from participation. For more information about *USA Football Month* please visit www.USAFootball.com.



Kids from the Chicago Park District’s Junior Bear Tackle youth football league lined up on the Bears sideline for the National Anthem.



Shake the Lake Music Festival

Tight end **Greg Olsen** is hosting the “Shake the Lake Music Festival” at Joe’s on Weed Street in Chicago on Friday, November 13 beginning at 8:00 p.m. The country music concert, featuring David Nail and Keith Anderson, will benefit Receptions for Research—The Greg Olsen Foundation. Funds raised will be distributed to organizations dedicated to breast and brain cancer research and treatment, as well as Children’s Memorial Hospital. Tickets are \$50 for General Admission, and \$100 for VIP access, which includes cocktails, appetizers, and the opportunity for a meet and greet with the bands and Greg’s teammates in attendance.

Greg founded Receptions for Research after his mother, Susan, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

“Shake the Lake Music Fest” will benefit Receptions for Research—The Greg Olsen Foundation.

She has been cancer-free for several years, but the cause remains close to the Olsen family. Come out to support this incredible cause and enjoy a great night of music and fun! Tickets are available at www.Ticketmaster.com, or can be purchased at Joe’s (cash only—940 W. Weed Street, Chicago).

For more information about Receptions for Research—The Greg Olsen Foundation, please visit www.ReceptionsforResearch.org.



Tales to Tackle

For the sixth consecutive year, the Chicago Bears have partnered with ComEd to present the “Tales to Tackle” reading incentive program. The goal of this program, geared toward 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, is for students to read three teacher-approved books per month. The main component of “Tales to Tackle” is a reading notebook. The notebook features pictures of Bears players, includes a list of suggested books, has plenty of space for students to write book reports and allows the students to keep track of the books that they read during the program. Every child who achieves the goal of reading three books per month for the three month period will be entered into a random drawing for the chance to win a special “Bears Experience” at Halas Hall in Lake Forest. “Tales to Tackle” will begin in mid-October and run through mid-January. To learn more about the “Tales to Tackle” reading incentive program, please log on to www.ChicagoBears.com/community.



Josh Beekman and Calen Hanie joined participants of the “Tales to Tackle” program at the Walter Payton Center.

The Israel Idonije Foundation

Defensive tackle **Israel Idonije** kicked-off the third year of his "First Down" program on Tuesday, September 22 at Dr. Martin Luther King Skating & Bowling Center in Chicago by treating a group of 5th – 7th grade students to bowling, roller skating and dinner. "First Down," a program of the Israel Idonije Foundation, is designed to encourage and sustain students' regular school attendance, high achievement and good citizenship, as well as motivate and reward students. Participants with 96% or higher attendance are rewarded each month by attending a unique life experience field trip. Idonije meets with students throughout the year at Alex Haley Academy, Benjamin Banneker, Carrie Jacobs Bond and Perkins Bass Elementary Schools to engage them in the classroom and motivate them to discover their passion and achieve their dreams.

The Israel Idonije Foundation believes education is the key to the future success of today's youth, and it all starts with the students being present and active in class. The "First Down" program works with 5th – 7th grade students (IZZYz KIDz) in Chicago, IL and Winnipeg, Manitoba. For more information about the Israel Idonije Foundation, please visit www.israelidonije.org.



Bears mascot **Staley** skated with kids during the kick-off event for The Israel Idonije Foundation "First Down" program.



Josh and Staley posed for a photo with **Robyn Kove, director of Midtown.**

Brunch with a Bear

Midtown Athletic Club will host their 7th annual 5K Run and Walk on Saturday, September 26. Proceeds from the race benefited Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears. Prior to the race, participants were invited to attend "Brunch with a Bear" on Tuesday, September 22 at Midtown Athletic Club in Palatine where guard **Josh Beekman** and Bears mascot **Staley** were on hand to take part in a "Question and Answer" session and meet the racers as they picked up their packets. Josh and Staley also visited with many of the kids that were at the facility, and even read to them out of Staley's new book. Bears Care would like to thank Midtown Athletic Club for their support!

Tackle the Shortage—Donate Life Challenge

Did you know that more than 100,000 people nationwide are on the waiting list for an organ transplant? And this number continues to grow, making it more important than ever for people who support donation to register their decision to be an organ donor.

In an effort to educate Illinois residents about organ donation and to encourage them to register as donors, the Chicago Bears, in partnership with Donate Life Illinois (DLI) and Astellas Pharma US, Inc., have issued the *Tackle the Shortage: Donate Life Challenge* with the goal of registering 5,000 new Illinois residents as organ donors by the end of the year.

To help residents meet the *Donate Life Challenge*, DLI and Astellas will host *Tackle the Shortage* information booths at the Bears Ultimate Tailgate events during our remaining three home games of the season: October 4, November 1 and November 8. Visitors will have the opportunity to: Join the Illinois donor registry; Get information about donation; Win a Walter Payton commemorative Donate Life license plate keychain; and Order a Walter Payton Donate Life license plate, which helps fund organ donation education efforts across the state.

We at the Chicago Bears know all too well the importance of organ donation. Ten years ago, our own Walter "Sweetness" Payton, who suffered from primary sclerosing cholangitis, a rare autoimmune liver disease, passed away at age 45 while on the waiting list for a liver transplant. Payton spent his final months as an advocate for organ transplants, encouraging others to register as organ donors. Help honor the life and legacy of Walter Payton by becoming a registered organ donor. If you are already registered, you can help by ordering an Organ Donor / Walter Payton Tribute License Plate. Visit [Cyberdrive Illinois](http://CyberdriveIllinois) for more information.

If you registered as an organ donor prior to January 1, 2006, you need to re-register your decision. Illinois residents can join the registry or re-register by visiting www.DonateLifeIllinois.org.

For more information about organ donation or the *Tackle the Shortage* initiative, please visit www.Facebook.com/DonateLife.

