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CHASE

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It Bears Mentioning...

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER/NOVEMBER 2009

Bears/Jewel-Osco “Coat Drive”



Alex Brown posed for a photo with a fan during an appearance at the Jewel in Gurnee in support of the Bears/Jewel “Coat Drive.”

Wide receiver **Johnny Knox** and defensive linemen **Mark Anderson, Alex Brown, Marcus Harrison** and **Israel Idonije** appeared at Jewel-Osco stores in Gurnee and Round Lake during the months of October and November in support of the 21st Annual Chicago Bears/Jewel-Osco “Coat Drive.” Fans had the opportunity meet and receive an autograph from the Bears players in exchange for donating a new or gently used coat.

The 21st Annual Chicago Bears/Jewel-Osco “Coat Drive” will continue through December 4, 2009 so there is still time to support this important cause! Winter coats can be dropped off at all 186 Jewel-Osco stores throughout Chicagoland. There will not be a stadium collection drive at Soldier Field this year, so we ask all fans to bring their coats to their local Jewel-Osco store. To find a store near you,

please visit the store locator at www.yourJewelOsco.com.

Thank you to all of our fans who have already donated! The Chicago Bears, Jewel-Osco, Wm. Meyers Movers and The Salvation Army are hoping to make this the most successful “Coat Drive” to date by collecting thousands of coats that will benefit The Salvation Army and public schools in the Chicago area.



Bears Players and Staff Go Green

Cornerback **D.J. Moore** joined over 25 Bears staff members, including President and CEO **Ted Phillips**, Senior Director of Business Development **Brian McCaskey** and Senior Director of Ticket Operations **George McCaskey**, on Tuesday, October 6 when they traded their computers and brief cases for buckets and shovels in an effort to help green and beautify Chicago by planting 40 new trees in a vacant lot along the Dan Ryan Expressway in Chicago. The Bears partnered with Chicago Gateway Green on this initiative to support their “Tree Partnership Program,” which aims to transform vacant land into tree-filled green spaces and engage communities in beautifying and caring for their environment. Bears volunteers joined Gateway Green volunteers in planting, mulching and watering the trees. This event was part of the Bears “Paws for a Cause” program, which provides opportunities for the entire Bears organization to join together and support worthwhile community initiatives through hands-on volunteerism.



President and CEO Ted Phillips assisted in planting new trees along the Dan Ryan Expy.

Chicago Bears/United Way “Hometown Huddle”



D.J. Moore helped a student test out the equipment in the brand new “Warhawks Fitness Zone” at North Chicago HS.

Defensive tackle **Israel Idonije** joined the Bears 2009 Rookie Class, including **Al Afalava, Johan Asiata, Kahlil Bell, Jarron Gilbert, Jaquín Iglesias, Johnny Knox, Lance Louis, Henry Melton, D.J. Moore, DeAngelo Smith** and **Will Ta’ufo’ou**, when they participated in the Bears/United Way “Hometown Huddle” program by unveiling the new “Warhawks Fitness Zone” at North Chicago High School on Tuesday, October 13. Bears alumni players **Glen Kozlowski** and **James “Big Cat” Williams** currently serve as North Chicago’s head football coach and defensive coordinator, and also participated in the day’s festivities. A \$25,000 grant from NFL Charities and the Chicago Bears; an additional contribution from Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears; a partnership with Life Fitness; support from Sports Health, a division of School Health Corporation; and in-kind donations generated by United Way of Lake County provided the financial support and equipment needed to renovate North Chicago’s workout and training rooms. The Bears, Life Fitness and the United Way of Lake County also established the 10-week “Warhawks Fitness Challenge” for students and faculty. The program encourages participants to commit to and engage in aerobic activity by providing daily recommended exercises and nutrition tips.

The “Hometown Huddle” is a NFL league-wide day of service that provides NFL players from all 32 teams the opportunity to take part in a variety of community service activities, such as building homes for low-income families, visiting local military bases, or painting classrooms. Started in 1999 by the NFL and United Way, the “Hometown Huddle” continues to help make a difference in communities across the country.

Hello to Our Heroes

On Tuesday, October 27 the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at John C. Haines Elementary School had a very exciting day. Not only was it “Hat Day” at the school, located in Chicago’s “Chinatown” neighborhood, but defensive tackle **Anthony Adams** also stopped by to visit with kids in support of the Bears “Hello to Our Heroes” program. Following a question and answer session with teachers and students, Anthony helped the kids write letters to members of the military who have recently returned from service overseas. The letters will be distributed to veterans that are currently being treated at VA medical centers in the Chicago area.

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.



Anthony Adams spoke with students at John C. Haines Elementary School in Chicago.



Lilly will donate \$1,000 to the ADA for every touchdown pass Jay throws for, and \$100 for each completion.

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.

Through eleven weeks of the Bears season, Lilly has donated \$39,500 to the American Diabetes Association, which will provide nearly 40 scholarships to children.

For more information about the Touchdowns for Diabetes program, and also to see exclusive webisodes of Jay’s journey with diabetes, please visit www.TouchdownsForDiabetes.com or www.JayCutlerSix.com.



Brittney and Jarrett Payton served as 4th Phase Captains on November 1st.

Remembering Walter

The Chicago Bears were proud to honor the memory of legendary running back **Walter Payton** during the Bears vs. Cardinals game at Soldier Field on November 1, 2009—the 10th anniversary of Walter’s passing. In recognition of “Remembering Walter,” the first 40,000 fans to enter Soldier Field received an exclusive Walter Payton commemorative calendar, provided by Coca-Cola. In addition, Walter’s children, **Jarrett** and **Brittney**, served as the 4th Phase Captains during pre-game, and a special video featuring highlights of Walter’s career and interviews with his former coaches and teammates was shown on the videoboards during halftime. Following the video, Connie, Jarrett and Brittney Payton stood at the 34-yard line of Soldier Field, where replicas of the memorial “34 patch” worn by the Bears after Walter’s death were painted, to thank fans for remembering Walter and honoring his memory by supporting the wonderful work of the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation.

Connie, Jarrett and Brittney continue to carry on the work that Walter started many years ago through the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation (WCPF), which helps abused, neglected & underprivileged children in the state of Illinois. Bears fans can support the WCPF by contributing to their annual Toy Drive. Another cause that is very important to the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation is organ donation awareness. Walter spent his final months as an advocate for organ transplants, encouraging others to register as organ donors. You can 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. To learn how you can support the WCPF, please visit www.payton34.com.

Bear Appetit

Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears, hosted an exciting new fundraiser, “Bear Appetit,” at the Wildfire restaurant in downtown Chicago on Monday, November 16. Ten current players, including **Zack Bowman, Josh Bullocks, Desmond Clark, Jay Cutler, Kellen Davis, Caleb Hanie, Israel Idonije, Greg Olsen, Kevin Payne** and **Craig Steltz**, as well as Bears alumni players **Jerry Azumah, Jim Covert, Richard Dent, Gary Fencik, Shaun Gayle, Dan Hampton, Jay Hilgenberg, Emery Moorehead, The Payton Family, Matt Suhey** and **Tom Thayer** participated in the event by assisting at various food and beverage stations throughout the restaurant. Inspired by the “Taste of the NFL” event held each year on the eve of Super Bowl Sunday, “Bear Appetit” brought together some of Chicago’s most popular chefs from 12 different *Lettuce Entertain You* restaurants. The evening also featured artists from Munro Campagna, who showcased the pieces they created exclusively for the 2010 Bears-themed “This is Our House” calendar.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Bears Care, which has committed \$100,000 to the Greater Chicago Food Depository in support of its holiday hunger initiatives.



Desmond Clark posed for a photo with guests during “Bear Appetit” at Wildfire.

Making Holiday Wishes Come True



B E A R S C A R E

The Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive, running November 1st through January 1st, is an annual program that provides customers the opportunity to purchase a book for donation and give it to a child in a store-selected community program. This year, Barnes & Noble in Arlington Heights has selected Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears, as one of the recipient organizations.

Books donated to Bears Care will be wrapped and delivered to children from low-income families in the Chicagoland area that have been invited to participate in the Bears annual holiday giving initiative, “Making Holiday Wishes Come True,” hosted by the Chicago Bears, Bears Care and United Airlines. For more information about the Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive and how you and your family or organization can participate, please contact Jamie Sutherland at (847) 259-5704.

For more information, and to learn about the many opportunities for you to support Bears Care, please visit

www.ChicagoBears.com/community/bearscare.asp.

First Down for Fitness Challenge

The Chicago Bears have partnered with AthletiCo Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy to launch the “First Down for Fitness” challenge. This program supports Play 60, the Bears’ youth health and fitness campaign designed to help tackle childhood obesity. Play 60 focuses on making the next generation of kids the most active and healthy by encouraging them to get at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. The objective of “First Down for Fitness” is for kids to meet or exceed a daily activity goal of 60 minutes per day, during a six-week period. Children from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, Lake County and Elgin have committed to Play 60 by participating in the “First Down for Fitness” challenge.



Since 1991, AthletiCo has been the proud provider of rehabilitation, fitness and performance services to many professional teams, performing arts companies, endurance programs, golf associations, volleyball clubs, high schools, colleges and events in Chicagoland and Central Illinois. For more information about AthletiCo please call 877-ATHLETICO (1-877-284-5384) or visit www.athletico.com.



Charles Tillman was joined by teammates Desmond Clark and Alex Brown at his “Celebrity Steak-Out” event.

Charles Tillman’s Celebrity Steak-Out

Cornerback **Charles Tillman** hosted the “Celebrity Steak-Out” at Texas de Brazil in Chicago on Monday, November 2. The reception included a raffle, live and silent auctions, cocktails and hors d’oeuvres. Guests also had the opportunity to mingle with cornerback **Zack Bowman**, defensive end **Alex Brown**, tight end **Desmond Clark** and former Bears tackle **John Tait**, who were in attendance to support their teammate.

Funds raised at the event benefited Charles Tillman’s Cornerstone Foundation, whose mission is to provide opportunities and resources to children or their families who are in need. Since 2005, Charles Tillman’s charitable efforts have impacted the lives of over one million Chicago-area children. For more information about the Cornerstone Foundation, please visit

www.CharlesTillman.org.

McKie’s Night at the Movies

On Monday, November 16, fullback **Jason McKie** and the Jason McKie Foundation of the Institute for Science and Health hosted more than 350 military members and their families for a night at the movies at Marcus Gurnee Cinemas. McKie was joined by several of his Bears teammates for the event. The Jason McKie Foundation rented out the theatre for the military, provided everyone with refreshments and the group watched Disney’s “A Christmas Carol”.

The Jason McKie Foundation of the Institute for Science and Health focuses on programs in the areas of education and wellness with an emphasis on making an impact in the lives of families of soldiers. The Foundation provides educational scholarships to military dependents affected by a loss or severely injured parent or spouse. Through the Foundation, Jason hosts various activities with military families, such as this movie night, to give back to those who give so much to our country. McKie also provides tickets for each Bears home game to military families through McKie’s Troops.



Jason McKie hosted over 350 members of the military and their families for a private viewing of “A Christmas Carol.”

Israel Idonije Recognized at Jefferson Awards

The Bears would like to congratulate **Israel Idonije** on his nomination for a 2009 Jefferson Award for Public Service! Izzy was honored at the 2009 Jefferson Awards Gala in Chicago on Thursday, October 22, where he received the 2009 Chicago Athlete Superstar of Service Award for the work he does with children in Chicago, Manitoba and Africa through his foundation. The Israel Idonije Foundation exists to extend positive, life-changing opportunities to children and families in economically disadvantaged communities on a global scale. IIF promotes the pursuit of education and knowledge, while providing programs for our youth and community members in hopes that they may actualize and maximize their full potential. For more information, please visit

www.IsraelIdonije.org.

Congratulations, Izzy! We’re so proud of you!

Youth for Life: Remembering Walter Payton



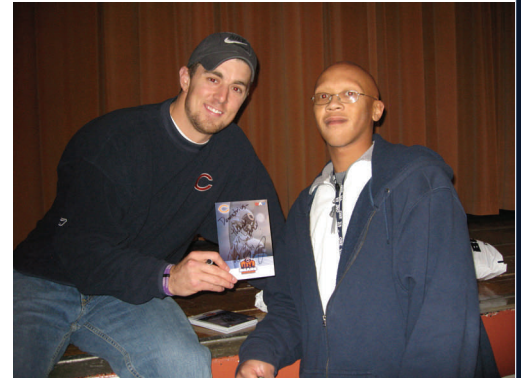
Caleb Hanie and Jamar Williams supported the Youth for Life: Remembering Walter Payton program at New Trier High School.

Quarterback **Caleb Hanie** and linebacker **Jamar Williams** participated in the Youth for Life: Remembering Walter Payton program at New Trier High School in Winnetka on Tuesday, October 27. The players talked with teens about the importance of organ donation and signed autographs. Earlier in the day, the sophomore class attended an informational assembly featuring a speaker from the Gift of Hope organization.

Youth for Life: Remembering Walter Payton (YFL) was founded in 2001 by four Chicago area teens; Erin Kinsella, John McCaskey, Brittney Payton and Mark Pendleton. The program seeks to educate high school students about organ and tissue donation. They dedicated the effort to Walter Payton, the legendary NFL running back who died in 1999 of a liver ailment, while awaiting a transplant. The goal of YFL is to provide facts about organ and tissue donation to high school students preparing to apply for their driver's license, so they can discuss the issue with their families and make an informed choice.

North Chicago VA Hospital Visit

Fullback **Jason McKie** and quarterback **Brett Basanez** visited the North Chicago VA Medical Center in North Chicago on Tuesday, November 3 in honor of Veterans' Day. The players first spent time visiting patients at the facility's nursing care center before heading over to Bourke Hall to speak with more veterans. Jason and Brett participated in a question and answer session, and then took pictures and signed autographs for the group. The players also delivered letters written to veterans by local students in support of the Bears "Hello to Our Heroes" program. As part of this program, which is sponsored by Staples, Bears players visit a different school each month during the football season to help a group of students write letters to members of the military. For more information about the "Hello to Our Heroes" program, please visit www.ChicagoBears.com/community.



Brett Basanez visited the North Chicago VA Medical Center.



2009 Bears Flag Football Champions

Bears Flag Football Champions

Congratulations to Neuqua Valley High School for earning the title of 2009 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 31. The Neuqua Valley players and coaches were guests of the Bears at Soldier Field on Sunday, November 8 when the Bears played the Arizona Cardinals. The team was honored during halftime of the game in an on-field ceremony.

Forte Coaches Safety

Running back **Matt Forte** visited Hayte Elementary School in Chicago on Tuesday, October 27 to help "coach" a pedestrian safety clinic sponsored by FedEx. The clinic was specifically scheduled to take place around Halloween, as many students prepared to head out for Trick-or-Treating. After a short seminar, Matt quizzed students on basic pedestrian safety principles, led them through different safety exercises and fitted the kids for new bicycle helmets courtesy of Safe Kids Chicago.

This event was part of the 6th annual FedEx Air & Ground Players of the Week program, which encourages fans to vote for outstanding Air & Ground players throughout the season to benefit pedestrian safety programs nationwide. FedEx also donated \$10,000 to the Safe Kids Chicago coalition to improve pedestrian safety near Hayte Elementary.



Matt Forte helped fit students at Hayte Elementary for new bicycle helmets.



Jay Cutler greets a young fan at University of Chicago's Kovler Diabetes Center.

Photo by: Bruce Powell

World Diabetes Day

Quarterback **Jay Cutler** visited the University of Chicago's Kovler Diabetes Center on Saturday, November 14 in recognition of World Diabetes Day, where he talked to teens with type 1 diabetes about his personal experiences and traded tips on managing the disease while maintaining an athletic lifestyle. Jay, the patients and their parents also toured the research laboratories at the Kovler Diabetes Center to observe cutting-edge science that is improving the understanding and treatment of the disease.

Jay, 26, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in April 2008 and has since become a spokesperson for the disease and an advocate for more research. As part of his outreach to diabetes sufferers, he recently recorded several videos that detail his experience with diabetes, its impact on his life and sports career, and how he manages the disease as a professional athlete. The videos are available for viewing at www.JayCutlerSix.com.

Bears School Outreach

Each Tuesday during the football season, Bears players 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. The players emphasize that education played an equally important role as physical talent did in their path to the NFL, and that learning does not stop once you reach the pros. The students are always surprised when they learn how many hours a day Bears players spend in meetings and that their playbooks are larger than most high school textbooks.

Now in its 12th season, the Bears School Outreach program reaches more than 7,000 students on an annual basis. To date, players who have participated in Bears School Outreach in 2009 include **Josh Beekman, Earl Bennett, Zack Bowman, Rashied Davis, Hunter Hillenmeyer, Greg Olsen, Nick Roach** and **Craig Steltz**. The Bears School Outreach program is brought to you by LG.



Earl Bennett visited Dixon Elementary School in support of School Outreach.



PPK participants get ready for an on-field demonstration at Soldier Field.

Punt, Pass and Kick

The Chicago Bears hosted the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick Team Championship on Saturday, November 7 in the Walter Payton Center at the Bears training facility in Lake Forest. Finalists participated in an on-field demonstration prior to the Bears vs. Cardinals game at Soldier Field on Sunday, November 8, and the winners in each age division were announced during an on-field ceremony at half-time. This grass roots skills competition for boys & 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 www.NFLyouthfootball.com for more information on NFL Punt, Pass and Kick.

Idonije Nominated for "Man of the Year"

The Chicago Bears are proud to announce that defensive lineman **Israel "Izzy" Idonije** has been selected as the Bears nominee for the 2009 NFL Walter Payton "Man of the Year" Award. Throughout his six year NFL career, Izzy has been a consistent performer and leader on the football field. Off the field, he has had an impact on kids across the world. Through the Israel Idonije Foundation, Izzy has programs that reach children in Chicago, Africa and Manitoba, Canada.



This prestigious NFL award is the only League award that recognizes a player's off-the-field community service, support and activities as well as his playing excellence. This award has been in existence since 1970 and honors NFL players who demonstrate outstanding balance in their lives between civic and professional responsibilities. In 1999, the league renamed the NFL "Man of the Year" award after Walter Payton as a tribute to his greatness both on and off the field.



ATLAS AND ATHENA

Quarterback **Brett Basanez** spoke to over 185 coaches and students from Hinsdale Central, Griffith, Portage, Andrew and East Peoria high schools as part of an NFL ATLAS AND ATHENA anti-steroid training session in the United Club at Soldier Field on Tuesday, October 20. To combat the use of steroids and human growth hormone (HGH) at the high school level, NFL ATLAS (Adolescents Training and Learning to Avoid Steroids) and ATHENA (Athletes Targeting Healthy Exercise and Nutrition Alternatives) is implemented in 14 NFL markets and reaches 36,000 high school student athletes and 1,200 coaches each year. The ATLAS and ATHENA programs focus on nutrition and exercise as alternatives to drug use. The ATLAS program targets adolescent male athletes' use of anabolic steroids, HGH, alcohol and other drugs and use of sport supplements, while improving healthy nutrition and exercise practices. ATHENA is designed to reduce disordered eating and use of body shaping and other drugs among young women, while promoting healthy nutrition and exercise.

Over 185 coaches and students participated in the ATLAS and ATHENA training at Soldier Field.

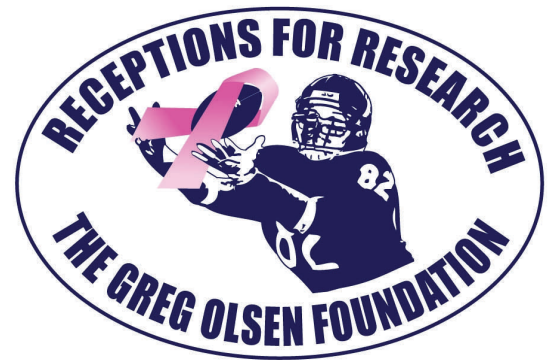
The five schools that participated in the training were selected based on interviews with program administrators and school-wide commitment from the principal, athletic director and coaches. Brett, who is a graduate of St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights, spent time talking with the students about the importance of staying away from steroids and other performance enhancing substances and discussing the importance of eating healthy.

For more information about the NFL ATLAS AND ATHENA program, please visit www.atlasathena.com.

Shake the Lake Music Festival

On Friday, November 13 tight end **Greg Olsen** hosted the "Shake the Lake Music Festival" at Joe's Bar in Chicago. The country music concert, which featured David Nail and Keith Anderson, raised over \$50,000 for The Greg Olsen Foundation, "Receptions for Research!" Funds will be distributed to organizations dedicated to breast and brain cancer research and treatment, and Children's Memorial Hospital. Joining Greg at the event were several of his teammates, including **Earl Bennett, Jay Cutler, Caleb Hanie, Tommie Harris, Hunter Hillenmeyer, Patrick Mannelly** and **Kevin Shaffer**. Actor **Vince Vaughn** also stopped by to support the cause.

The Greg Olsen Foundation, "Receptions for Research," believes that everyone deserves a second chance at life and it is our goal to provide our hospitals, doctors and researchers the necessary resources to save those affected with debilitating diseases. For more information, please visit www.ReceptionsForResearch.org.



Gridiron Alliance Memories Program



Kenneth Jennings speaks with a fan at the Gridiron Alliance Memories Program booth at Soldier Field.

The Gridiron Alliance, a newly formed charitable organization benefitting paralyzed high school athletes, will be promoting the Gridiron Alliance Memories Program at the remainder of the Bears 2009 home games. The group will be located near Gate 4 inside the south end of Soldier Field during the first half of each game. This program provides an opportunity for Bears fans to have sports jerseys, photos and other memorabilia framed, with a portion of each sale benefitting the Gridiron Alliance.

The founders of the Gridiron Alliance include Rocky Clark, Rob Komosa, Kenneth Jennings and Steve Herbst, all of whom were local high school football players who suffered catastrophic spinal cord injuries while playing high school football. Their mission is twofold—To provide essential outreach to students catastrophically injured in school sports, and to prevent future injuries to all student athletes by making school sports as safe as they can be.

For more information, please call (847) 386-1919 or log on to www.GridironAlliance.org.