



# IT BEARS MENTIONING.....

November 2004

## HALLOWEEN FUN!



The residents of Misericordia Heart of Mercy had a Halloween full of treats and no tricks on Tuesday, October 26. That is because Bears players Terrence Metcalf and John Tait celebrated the holiday a few days early when they joined over 50 residents of Misericordia for a Halloween party at the facility. The festive group participated in several Halloween activities, and the two Bears showed off their artistic skills by painting pumpkins with residents. After every pumpkin was beautifully decorated, the party was moved outside for an impromptu game of football. John and Terrence taught the residents the techniques of punting, passing, and kicking and led them through various football drills. The residents showed their appreciation to the generous Bears by presenting them with gift bags full of delicious goodies from Misericordia's bakery. Misericordia is home to approximately 560 children and adults with mild to profound developmental and physical disabilities from all religious, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Chicago Bears and Menards invite you to participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Coat Drive benefiting The Salvation Army and Chicago area schools. Your donation of new or "gently used" coats will help Chicagoland families who are most in need stay warmer during the cold winter months. The Bears/Menards Coat Drive will kick-off on November

21 with a stadium collection drive prior to the Bears vs. Colts game at Soldier Field. Bears fans are encouraged to bring coats, gloves, scarves, and any other cold weather clothing to the game to help support this very worthy cause. Collection bins will be located at stadium gates and other areas surrounding the stadium. The Coat Drive will continue through January 17, 2005, and coats can be dropped off at any of the 39 Menards stores throughout Chicagoland or at Salvation Army Thrift Store locations. For more information on how you can help or to find the Menards store nearest you, please log on to [www.ChicagoBears.com/community](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/community). The Chicago Bears and Menards thank you in advance for your generous donation to those less fortunate during the upcoming winter and holiday season.

WM. MEYERS MOVERS INC.



# CHICAGO BEARS... TACKLING THE NEEDS OF CHICAGO



The Chicago Bears 2004 game tickets feature photos of Bears players and coaches serving the community. The following story describes the event that is depicted in the photo for the November 21 game. Stories pertaining to photos for upcoming games will be featured in future issues of "It Bears Mentioning..." Through charitable outreach efforts, cause-related marketing initiatives, and grass roots programs in the areas of Education, Underprivileged Children and Families, Health and Wellness, Youth Football, and Volunteerism, the Chicago Bears continue to make a difference.

## John Tait Makes New Friends at Mini-Camp Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears November 21, 2004

Two former high school football players who have become particularly special to the Chicago Bears are Rasul "Rocky" Clark and Rob Komosa. In separate incidents, both of these young men suffered tragic spinal cord injuries while playing high school football. Despite the severity of



of their injuries, Rocky and Rob have continually exhibited unwavering drive, determination, and spirit. Their positive attitudes and upbeat personalities have captured the hearts of the Chicago Bears. The Bears were honored to have Rocky and Rob visit Halas Hall during the final mini-camp at the end of May. The young men arrived early in the morning...ready for a fun-filled day with the Bears. They took a short break from watching practice to enjoy a BBQ lunch in the player lounge. After lunch, it was right back out to the sidelines to catch the end of the Bears morning work-out. Although the Bears players were tired and sore from a tough practice, their faces noticeably brightened as they saw Rocky and Rob waiting for them. More than 25 players - including John



Tait, Brian Urlacher, and David Terrell - stopped by to visit with the young men and talk football. The Bears have continually supported Rocky and Rob over the years through monetary donations, player appearances, ticket donations, and fundraising efforts.

## ROCKFORD AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY "SUPER BOWL SWEEPS"

Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity, in cooperation with Bears Care, is currently selling tickets for its Tenth Annual "Super Bowl Sweeps." The purchaser of the winning ticket in "Super Bowl Sweeps" wins the following prize package:

- Four tickets to Super Bowl XXXIX to be played on February 6, 2005 at ALLTEL Stadium in Jacksonville, Florida.
- Round-trip airfare from Chicago Midway Airport to Jacksonville International Airport in Jacksonville. Travel dates will be February 3, 2005 and February 7, 2005. Airline tickets donated by Southwest Airlines.
- Hotel accommodations of two rooms for four nights at the Holiday Inn St. Augustine Beach in St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

The number of tickets to be sold is limited to only 2,000 and each ticket costs \$30.00. The winning ticket in "Super Bowl Sweeps" will be drawn on January 20, 2005. Tickets in the "Super Bowl Sweeps" are available at all eight Alpine Bank facilities located in Winnebago County, IL. Tickets may also be purchased by Master Card or Visa by utilizing the website: [www.RockfordHabitat.org](http://www.RockfordHabitat.org). Credit card sales are not available at Alpine Bank locations.

For the past eight years, Rockford Area HFH has partnered with Bears Care, a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation. Due to a 50% match from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, raffle profits generate additional funds for the benefit of Bears Care. The McCormick Tribune Foundation supports agencies such as Rockford Area HFH. Since 1997, Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity has received \$407,000 in grants from Bears Care. Once again, Habitat for Humanity will partner with Bears Care for the 2004 edition of "Super Bowl Sweeps." This year's fund-raiser has the potential to generate up to \$90,000 for the benefit of Bears Care. AS A RESULT, CHECKS FOR PURCHASE OF RAFFLE TICKETS SHOULD BE PAYABLE TO: **BEARS CARE.**



# CHAMPIONS HEAD TO DISNEY!



Despite the pounding rain, the NFL FLAG Football Regional Tournament that was held in Grant Park on October 23 was a rousing success. Over 200 young boys and girls participated in the tournament for a chance to advance to the national tournament. Flag football teams came from around the Midwest to play in the all-day, round-robin tournament. The winning teams from each age bracket earned



the right to advance to the National Tournament of Champions at DISNEY'S WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS Complex in Orlando, Florida on November 19 & 20. The Chicago Bears wish all of the winners the best of luck! For information about starting or joining a NFL FLAG Football league in your area so you can participate in this tournament next year, log on to [www.nflyouthfootball.com](http://www.nflyouthfootball.com).



## THANKS COACH!!!

The Chicago Bears congratulate the nine high school football coaches who were selected as Chicago Bears "Coach of the Week" winners this year. This program honors outstanding high school coaches who develop players' football skills and knowledge, character and leadership, and teamwork abilities. Other criteria include graduation rates, coaching technique, school and community support, and most importantly, contributions to players' long-term success on and off the field. The Bears annually honor nine high school coaches in Illinois as part of this program. Since the inception of the "Coach of the Week"

program in 1996, over \$120,000 has been donated to Illinois high schools in support of their football programs. The Chicago Bears are proud to announce the winners of the 2004 "Coach of the Week" program:

- Week 1: John Belskis, Downers Grove South (Downers Grove)
- Week 2: Dave Pendergast, Conant (Hoffman Estates)
- Week 3: Mike Allen, Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley (Gibson City)
- Week 4: Bruce Bazsali, Elk Grove (Elk Grove Village)
- Week 5: Jeff Harres, New Berlin (New Berlin)
- Week 6: Larry McKeon, Naperville North (Naperville)
- Week 7: Steve Tadlock, Austin (Chicago)
- Week 8: Rich Rio, Lane Tech (Chicago)
- Week 9: Peter Thanos, Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep (Chicago)



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

- Anthony Thomas....November 7, 1977
- Ian Scott....November 8, 1981
- Lance Briggs....November 12, 1980
- Israel Idonije....November 17, 1980
- Nathan Vasher....November 17, 1981

## YOUTH FOR LIFE

The Chicago Bears, in conjunction with Walgreens, the Illinois Coalition on Donation, and the Illinois Secretary of State's office, continue to support organ donor awareness through our "Youth For Life: Remembering Walter Payton" program. YFL is a not-for-profit campaign committed to educating young adults about the lifesaving gift of organ and tissue donation. This campaign provides the facts to teens who are preparing to apply for their drivers' licenses so that they may make an informed choice. By explaining the ease of enrolling in the program and the ongoing need for participants, we hope more teens and adults will register as donors when they visit their Secretary of State's office.



CONTACT THE CHICAGO BEARS COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AT (847) 295-6600