



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 19th Annual Chicago Bears/Jewel-Osco "Coat Drive"
- Bears wives' "Holiday Giving" to benefit the SEDOL Foundation.
- Toy Drive to benefit the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation
- Military Support

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# It Bears Mentioning...

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2007

## Bears Care Supports Youth Football

On Tuesday, October 16 running back **Garrett Wolfe** returned to the place where his passion for football began. He visited a Junior Bear Tackle Football practice at Lafollette Park in Chicago to present a check for \$60,000 to the Chicago Park District on behalf of Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears. **Mr. Timothy Mitchell**, Superintendent and CEO of the Chicago Park District, also attended the presentation to accept the check on behalf of the CPD.

Garrett is a Chicago native who played in the Junior Bear program at Lafollette Park as a youngster. Garrett was also joined at the event by William Gray, his former Jr. Bear coach. Following the check presenta-

tion, Garrett spoke to current Jr. Bear players about his youth football experiences, and also led



**Garrett Wolfe helped out at a Jr. Bear practice.**

them in several football drills.

This visit was one aspect of the Chicago Bears' and Bears Care's long-standing support of the Chicago Park District. Including

this most recent grant, Bears Care has donated a total of \$255,000 in support of the Junior Bear Tackle and Inner City Flag football programs, and a total of \$165,000 in support of the Nerf football program, formerly Sheriff Michael Sheahan's Neighborhood Football League.

The Junior Bear program gives 750 Chicago-area children, ages 7-13, the opportunity to play youth football in a structured environment. The Junior Bear season culminated on Saturday, November 17 when Washington Park defeated Ogden Park in the Mum Bowl. For more information about the Chicago Park District and its programs, call (312) 742-PLAY or visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

## Staples Dream Park Challenge

The Chicago Bears and corner-back **Charles Tillman** have teamed up with Staples to present the Staples "Dream Park Challenge with the Bears." Through this program, Staples will donate over \$50,000 to help beautify the fourteen parks that host the Chicago Park District's Junior Bear Tackle Football program. From October 23 through December 31, 2007, residents can log on to

[www.StaplesDreamPark.com](http://www.StaplesDreamPark.com) and vote for their favorite park. The park receiving the most votes will receive \$25,000, second-place will win \$10,000 and third-place will receive \$5,000 to help with park improvements. The 11 remaining parks will each receive \$1,000. Voters will also be automatically entered into a drawing to meet Charles Tillman at the event to announce the winning park. Participating Chi-

cago parks include: Ada, Dunham, Garfield, Hamlin, Jackson, Kelyn, Kennicott, Lafollette, Lindblom, Ogden, Rainbow Beach, Trumbull, Washington and Welles. For more information about the Staples "Dream Park Challenge with the Bears" and to vote for your favorite park, please visit [www.StaplesDreamPark.com](http://www.StaplesDreamPark.com)

# Hometown Huddle



Greg Olsen helped a student hop through the alphabet.

On Tuesday, October 9 the Chicago Bears 2007 Rookie Class, including **Greg Olsen, Garrett Wolfe, Mike Okwo, Josh Beekman, Corey Graham, Trumaine McBride, Kevin Payne, Greg Fassitt, Josh Gattis, Fontel Mines and Dan Bazuin**, helped unveil the new Fitness and Learning Zone at Whittier Kindergarten Center in Waukegan as part of a national day of community service when NFL teams join forces with their local United Way on a volunteer project.

The project began with a \$30,000 grant from the Chicago Bears to convert what was once a vacant lot into a Fitness and Learning Zone, complete with brand new playground equipment and new blacktop with colorful stenciled letters, numbers and

shapes for physically active learning games for students at Whittier Kindergarten Center and Daniel Webster Middle School. Combining the Bears grant with a \$2,000 donation from United Way of Lake County along with monetary contributions from Waukegan School District 60, Whittier's Parent Teacher Organization and other in-kind donations from local businesses, the total value of the project exceeded \$80,000.

"It's all about being able to mix learning and physical activity rather than sitting in a chair and saying the alphabet," said rookie tight end Greg Olsen. "I wish we had a playground like this where I went to school. We just had a tire swing on some mulch."

The "Hometown Huddle" is a

NFL-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.



Students at Whittier will enjoy a brand new playground as part of the Fitness and Learning Zone.



Mark Bradley supported the Bears "Hello to Our Heroes" program.

# Hello to Our Heroes

Wide receiver **Mark Bradley** supported the Bears "Hello to Our Heroes" program when he visited McCutcheon Elementary School in Chicago on Tuesday, October 16. Through this program, Mark helped students write letters to men and women of the military who are currently stationed overseas. The "Hello to Our Heroes" program, which is brought to you by Staples, was developed by the Chicago Bears in 2005 in

an effort to boost the morale of American Soldiers. In support of this program, 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 by the USO. Staples provides letter writing kits to the students to assist them in writing letters to United States service men and women abroad. In addition, Staples provides letter writing kits to the military men and

women overseas who receive the students' letters. For more information on the "Hello to Our Heroes" program, log on to [www.ChicagoBears.com/community](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/community).



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# 19th Annual Chicago Bears/Jewel-Osco "Coat Drive"



The 19th Annual Chicago Bears/Jewel-Osco "Coat Drive" kicked off on Monday, November 12 with a press conference at Halas Hall. Kicker **Robbie Gould**, defensive end **Tommie Harris**, cornerback

**A press conference was held at Halas Hall to kick-off the Coat Drive.**

**Charles Tillman**, and Head Equipment Manager **Tony Medlin** participated 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 through January 4, 2008. A store locator is available at [www.JewelOsco.com](http://www.JewelOsco.com) or

[www.ChicagoBears.com/](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/) community. A stadium collection drive will take place on Sunday, December 2 at Soldier Field prior to the Bears vs. Giants game. Volunteers will be stationed at entrance gates to collect coats from generous fans as they enter the stadium. Thousands of coats will be collected this year as part of the 19th Annual Chicago Bears/Jewel-Osco "Coat Drive" benefiting The Salvation Army and public schools in the Chicagoland area.

*The "Get Fit with Walgreens" fitness program reaches kids in 35 schools in the Chicago area.*

## Get Fit With Walgreens!

Wide receiver **Muhsin Muhammad** joined over 2,000 third grade students at the Windy City Fieldhouse in Chicago on Tuesday, October 2 to help kick off the "Get Fit with Walgreens" fitness program for the 2007-2008 school year. Moose spoke to the kids about the importance of good nutrition and staying active, and also helped demonstrate fun classroom activities to

encourage kids to get fit. "Get Fit with Walgreens" is a curriculum-based program, delivered by classroom teachers, that creatively addresses fitness and health issues in a fun and exciting way for children to understand. The program, now in its 4th year and reaching students in 35 schools in the Chicago area, is designed to help manage the growing problem of childhood obesity

among the African-American and Hispanic communities.



## Calling All Kids!!!

The Chicago Bears have recently launched a new "Kid Zone" on [www.ChicagoBears.com](http://www.ChicagoBears.com) in an effort to reach more of our young fans. This interactive site contains a wide variety of information and activities geared toward children ages 6-14, including youth football programs and scores, fitness tips, interactive games, school programs, player interviews, contests and much

more. The site will serve as a vehicle to introduce children to the various community programs and initiatives that are available to them. Be sure to keep logging onto [www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone) for new contests, activities, photos and player interviews!





**Brendon Ayanbadejo** participated in a *What Moves U* event.

## What Moves U

Linebacker **Brendon Ayanbadejo** and cornerback **Ricky Manning, Jr.** appeared at Lincoln Middle School in Mt. Prospect on Tuesday, October 23 to participate in an assembly for more than 700 students in support of the "What Moves U" fitness program. Brendon and Ricky led the kids in various fitness exercises, assisted with a nutrition trivia game, and spoke to the students about the importance of being physically active. They also offered fun and easy ways

to integrate exercise into their daily routines. "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. Unlike other physical fitness programs, "What Moves U" has been developed for teachers of various academic disciplines to help them find ways to integrate physical

activity into their daily lesson plans. The program includes an interactive web site, [www.WhatMovesU.com](http://www.WhatMovesU.com), where kids can log on to learn about the importance of physical activity. For more information on the Bears "What Moves U" fitness program, which is sponsored locally by Walgreens, please visit [www.ChicagoBears.com/](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/) community or [www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone).



*The Bears School Outreach program reaches over 7,000 students on an annual basis.*

## Bears School Outreach

Each Tuesday during the football season, Chicago Bears players visit Chicago Public Schools to speak to, motivate and interact with students as part of the Bears School Outreach program. The theme for player visits is character development, goal setting, and commitment to excellence. The Bears School Outreach program reaches more than 7,000

students annually. Bears players **Brendon Ayanbadejo, Dan Bazuin, Josh Beekman, Cedric Benson, Bernard Berrian, Rashied Davis, Antonio Garay, John Gilmore, Mike Hass, Hunter Hillenmeyer, Mark LeVoir, Terrence Metcalf, Greg Olsen, Babatunde Oshinowo, Lousaka Polite, Tyler Reed, John St. Clair,**

**John Tait and Jamar Williams** have visited 20 Chicago Public Schools in support of the Bears School Outreach program.



## Bears Flag Football Champs

**Neuqua Valley also won the Bears Flag title in 2005.**



Congratulations to Neuqua Valley High School for earning the title of 2007 Bears Flag Football Champions! The

Bears annually host a 34-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 27. In the championship game, Neu-

qua Valley edged out Notre Dame High School by a score of 6-0. The Neuqua Valley players and coaches were guests of the Bears at Soldier Field on Sunday, November 25 when the Bears beat the Denver Broncos. They were honored during a pre-game ceremony at mid-field.

# Happy Halloween!



On Tuesday, October 30 tackle **John Tait** visited Misericordia Heart of Mercy in Chicago for a Halloween party. As part of his visit, John helped over 50 residents

**John helped decorate and paint pumpkins.**

decorate pumpkins and took part in various other Halloween-related activities. After the party, the group headed outside to play some football and sharpen their skills with some help from John. This is the third time in the last four years that John and the Chicago Bears have supported Misericordia by participating in their annual Halloween party.



**Residents also participated in a football clinic.**

## Walter & Connie Payton Foundation "Toy Drive"

Tight end **John Gilmore** appeared at a Dominick's store in Chicago on Tuesday, November 20 in support of the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation's annual "Toy Drive," brought to you by Frito-Lay and Gatorade. Fans had the opportunity to meet John, as well as **Jarrett Payton, Brittney Payton** and Bears alum **Jim Morrissey** as they donated new, unwrapped toys

in support of the "Toy Drive." Bears fans also donated toys during a stadium collection drive on Sunday, November 25 prior to the Bears vs. Broncos game at Soldier Field. The "Toy Drive" will run from November 1—December 16, 2007. New, unwrapped toys may be dropped off at any of the 82 Chicagoland Dominick's stores through December 16, 2007. The

Dominick's store locator can be found at [www.Dominick's.com/](http://www.Dominick's.com/)



## Click for Cans

Return specialist Devin Hester and his mom, Juanita Brown, took part on a Campbell's Chunky Soup Spoon Weigh-In on Tuesday, November 13 at Halas Hall in Lake Forest in support of the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The two sat on a giant soup spoon scale, resulting in their combined weight—in soup cans—being donated to the Greater Chicago Food

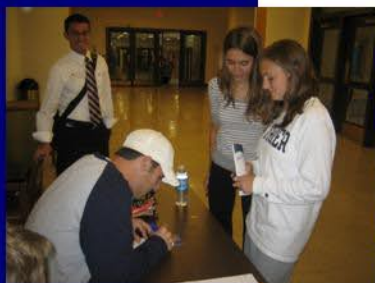
Depository. The Weigh-In was also meant to encourage fans to take part in Chunky soup's annual "Click for Cans" online food drive. Bears fans can log on to [www.chunky.com/ClickForCansVote.aspx](http://www.chunky.com/ClickForCansVote.aspx) to cast their vote and help make a difference in their community. The team that receives the most clicks will receive the weight of their official

roster in soup cans. The Bears are currently in 12th place, so be sure to vote every day until December 15!!!



**Devin Hester and his mom participated in the Campbell's Chunky Soup Spoon Weigh-In.**

## Youth For Life



Mike Hass participated in a YFL assembly at New Trier High School.

Wide receivers **Mark Bradley** and **Mike Hass** visited New Trier High School in Winnetka on Tuesday, October 23 in support of the "Youth for Life: *Remembering Walter Payton*" organ donation program. Mark and Mike spoke about the importance of organ donation and signed autographs for the students. The sophomore class also attended an information assembly featuring Tim Joos, a volunteer from the Gift of Hope organization, who

shared his personal story about the loss of his teenage daughter and his family's decision to donate her organs.

"Youth for Life: *Remembering Walter Payton*" (YFL) was founded in 2001 by four Chicago area teens, Erin Kinsella, John McCaskey, Brittney Payton, and Mark Pendelton. 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.

## U.S. Army All-American Bowl

The Chicago Bears hosted three local prep football players who have been selected to play in the 2008 U.S. Army All-American Bowl at the Bears vs. Lions game on October 28. Sean Cwynar of Marian Central Catholic High School, Darius Fleming of St. Rita High School and Steve Filer of Mt. Carmel High School have been recognized by the U.S. Army

All-American Bowl as three of the nation's top 84 football players. The Bowl showcases tomorrow's College and NFL stars, such as alumni Michael Clayton, Adrian Peterson, Reggie Bush, Vince Young, and the Bears own Tommie Harris. The game will be played at the Alamodome in San Antonio, TX on January 5th, 2008 and broadcast nationally on NBC.

Visit [goarmy.com](http://goarmy.com) or [allamericangames.com](http://allamericangames.com) for more information on the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Congratulations to our Chicago selections, and best of luck!



## Great Lakes Visit

Tommie Harris visited the Great Lakes Naval Station.



Defensive tackle **Tommie Harris** visited Great Lakes Naval Station in Great Lakes, IL on Monday, October 15 to participate in a ceremony honoring over 3,000 of

the United States Navy's newest sailors. Tommie briefly addressed the crowd, and spent most of the evening visiting with the sailors and signing autographs. This is the second consecutive year that the Bears have supported this event. The Bears have continually supported Great Lakes

Naval Station and the military through player appearances, donations of autographed merchandise, and by inviting sailors to watch practice at Halas Hall in Lake Forest.