



IT BEARS MENTIONING.....

January 2006

BEARS PRESENT STRONG DEFENSE AGAINST DIABETES

The Chicago Bears were proud to select the American Diabetes Association as the 2005 recipient of the team's Holiday Giving initiative. The Bears partnered with the ADA on community programs during the month of December, which included a special holiday event at Halas Hall in Lake Forest, an on-field presentation prior to the Bears-Falcons game, and a monetary donation.



Lovie Smith signed autographs for young fans during a visit to Halas Hall as his wife, MaryAnne, visited with the youngsters.

The Bears hosted 24 children from the American Diabetes Association on Wednesday, December 7 at the Bears training facility in Lake Forest to watch practice and participate in a special seminar with Head Coach **Lovie Smith**, **Brian Urlacher**, **Hunter Hillenmeyer**, **Michael Haynes**, **Ian Scott**, and Strength and Conditioning Coordinator **Rusty Jones**. The Bears final regular season home game on December 18 also featured a special activity for the ADA when the Bears and Bears Care presented a check in the amount of \$35,000 to the American Diabetes Association during an on-field presentation prior to kick-off. The relationship between the Bears and the American Diabetes Association began as a result of Lovie and MaryAnne Smith's steadfast support of the ADA over the years, and the Bears look forward to continuing this special relationship in the future.

EDWARDS DELIVERS HOLIDAY CHEER

Bears offensive tackle **Steve Edwards** donned a Santa suit to deliver toys and some early holiday cheer to children at the American Brain Tumor Association's annual holiday party on Tuesday, December 13 at the Northbrook Hilton. More than 40 families from across the greater Chicago metropolitan area attended the party. The Chicago Bears have supported this event since 1999 by arranging for a player to dress up as **Santa Claus**.



Steve Edwards dressed up as Santa for the American Brain Tumor Association's Holiday Party.

SHOPPING WITH THE BEARS



Ian Scott helped a child shop during a recent shopping spree to a Chicago Toys R Us store.

Thanks to generous monetary donations from Bears players, coaches, and staff and a significant contribution from Cadillac, 50 lucky children from the Chicago Housing Authority had the opportunity to enjoy the holiday shopping experience of a lifetime on December 20. Each child received a Toys R Us gift certificate valued at \$120, which they were able to spend during the 1½ hour private shopping spree. And if having the whole toy store to themselves wasn't great enough, they received an additional treat when they saw Bears defensive end



A happy group of children from the Chicago Housing Authority posed for a group photo during a private tour of Soldier Field.

Ian Scott walk into the Toys R Us store to help them shop and to sign autographs. After their carts were full and their spirits bright, they were transported in a luxury bus to Soldier Field for a pizza party, a visit from Bears mascot Staley, and an opportunity to tour the Bears home field. The Chicago Bears thank Cadillac for their support of this program within the Bears Community Outreach initiative. Cadillac is the Official Vehicle and Hall of Fame Partner of the Chicago Bears.

PAWS FOR A CAUSE

The 2005 Bears Rookie Class, including Kyle Orton, Cedric Benson, Robbie Gould, Rashied Davis, Brandon McGowan, Airese Currie, and Daven Holly, joined Bears front office staff in an organization-wide volunteer event on Tuesday, December 6 to help support the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation. Volunteers helped sort and box toys that were collected by the Payton Foundation during their annual Toy Drive. The toys were distributed to thousands of needy children throughout Chicagoland before the holidays. This event was part of the Bears "Paws for a Cause"

volunteer initiative, which addresses the need to help those less fortunate through hands-on volunteer efforts and encourages everyone to take time out of their busy schedules to actively make a difference in the lives of people who are most in need.



The 2005 Bears Rookie Class joined staff members in volunteering at the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation.

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

Several Bears players including **Steve Edwards**, **Terrence Metcalf**, **Ruben Brown**, **Thomas Jones**, and Bears mascot **Staley**, did their part to help those less fortunate during the holiday season by serving as celebrity bell ringers for the Salvation Army outside of Chicago's historic State Street Marshall Field's store on Tuesday, December 20. The players collected donations in support of the Red Kettle Christmas Campaign, which enables the Salvation Army to provide food, toys, and clothing to over 6 million people during the holiday season and helps more than 34 million Americans recovering from personal disasters nationwide. For more information about the Salvation Army, please visit www.salvationarmy.org.

SCHOOL'S OUT!!!

The Bears School Outreach program wrapped up for the season on Tuesday, December 13 when defensive end **Ian Scott** visited Swift School and kicker **Robbie Gould** visited Dixon School in Chicago. Each Tuesday during the football season, Chicago Bears players visited Chicago Public Schools to speak to, motivate, and interact with students as part of the Bears School Outreach program. The theme for player visits was character development, goal setting, and commitment to excellence. Other players who participated in Bears School Outreach in 2005 included **Justin Gage, Mike Green, Rex Grossman, Todd Johnson, and Bobby Wade**. More than 7,000 students benefit annually from this program.



Rex Grossman spoke to kids at North River School as part of the Bears School Outreach Program.



Brendon Ayanbadejo helped 6th grade students write letters to soldiers stationed overseas.

HELLO TO OUR HEROES

Bears linebacker **Brendon Ayanbadejo** visited Hunting Ridge School in Palatine on Tuesday, December 13 in support of the Bears "Hello to Our Heroes" program. Brendon helped a 6th grade class write letters to men and women of the military who are currently serving overseas. He encouraged the students to thank the soldiers for their bravery and to wish them a safe return home. The youngsters also wrote about their plans for the holidays and their hopes of seeing the Bears in the Super Bowl! As

part of this program, which is sponsored by Staples, a Bears player visited a different school once a month during the football season to help students write letters. The letters were then distributed by the USO to troops serving overseas. Staples provided letter writing kits to the students, as well as to the service men and women who received the students' letters.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

- Alfonso Boone.....January 11, 1976
- Alfonso Marshall.....January 17, 1981
- Bryan Johnson.....January 18, 1978
- Justin Gage.....January 25, 1981
- John Tait.....January 26, 1975
- Terrence Metcalf....January 28, 1978
- Mark Bradley....January 29, 1982

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

While "It Bears Mentioning..." typically highlights the accomplishments of our players off the field, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our 2005 NFC North Division Champions on an exciting and successful season. Way to go!

We would also like to congratulate Lance Briggs, Mike Brown, Tommie Harris, Olin Kreutz, Brian Urlacher and Nathan Vasher on being voted to the 2006 Pro Bowl! The Bears are proud to have you represent the team in Hawaii!

COAT DRIVE CONTINUES

Bears cornerbacks **Jerry Azumah** and **Charles Tillman** appeared at the Dominick's store at Roosevelt and Canal in Chicago on Tuesday, December 13 in support of the 17th Annual Chicago Bears/Dominick's "Coat Drive." They met with and signed autographs for fans who dropped off coats at the store. Jerry and Charles were treated to an extra surprise when teammate **Muhsin Muhammad** showed up with over

\$2,000 worth of brand new coats to donate to the "Coat Drive!" Thanks Moose!

Winter coats may be dropped off at any of the 99 Chicagoland Dominick's stores throughout January 17, 2006. To find a Dominick's near you, please visit www.Dominicks.com/StoreLocator.asp.



Charles Tillman and Jerry Azumah helped Muhsin Muhammad unpack coats he purchased and donated in support of the Bears "Coat Drive."



Jeremy Cain helped a student with his homework at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boys & Girls Club.

academics after school and reward them for their achievements. The "Touchdown Club Power Hour" program will continue in 2006.

TOUCHDOWN CLUB POWER HOUR

Bears linebacker **Jeremy Cain** and offensive lineman **Anthony Oakley** joined Bears staff members at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boys & Girls Club in Chicago on Tuesday, December 20 for the "Touchdown Club Power Hour" tutoring program. The Bears partnered with Staples and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago in creating this initiative, which is designed to encourage students to focus on



YOUTH FOR LIFE

Bears defensive tackle **Tank Johnson**, safety **Chris Harris**, wide receiver **Justin Gage**, and tight end **Gabe Reid** supported the "Youth for Life: Remembering Walter Payton" program at three area high schools during the month of December. The YFL program was founded in 2001 with the purpose of educating high school students about the importance of organ and tissue donation. The program, sponsored by Walgreens, was dedicated to Walter Payton, who died in 1999 while awaiting a liver 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 make an informed choice about registering as a donor.



Tank Johnson signed autographs for high school sophomores following an assembly about organ donation.



Robbie Gould signed autographs for kids at a recognition event for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Chicago.

COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK

Kicker **Robbie Gould** appeared at the Annual Appreciation Dinner for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Chicago on Thursday, December 15 to help honor and thank dedicated volunteers and the children they help. The Bears also supported Big Brothers Big Sisters with a \$5,000 grant made through the Chicago Bears/NFL "Community Quarterback Award" program.

HOME TEAM HEROES

The Chicago Bears Community Relations department would like to thank **Jerry Azumah, Mike Brown, Roberto Garza, 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 2005 season. Collectively, these generous Bears purchased over 1,900 tickets that were donated to 15 different Chicagoland charitable organizations. Their generosity provided those less fortunate with the opportunity to see a Bears game at Soldier Field. Children from these organizations also had the opportunity to serve as an honorary captain at a Bears home game where they participated in the coin toss at mid-field prior to kickoff.



Kids from Muhsin Muhammad's M2 Foundation enjoyed watching the Bears victory over the Carolina Panthers from seats that Moose purchased and donated through the HTHO program. These lucky kids were part of Moose's Herd.



Congratulations to Nathan Vasher for being named one of Chicago's Rising Stars at a recent awards ceremony.



The Chicago Bears and Bears Care presented a check for \$35,000 to the American Diabetes Association during an on-field presentation prior to the Bears-Falcons game on December 18.

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