



# IT BEARS MENTIONING....

July 2005

## "ROOKIE RALLY"

On Friday, June 10 the Bears 2005 Rookie Class left behind their helmets and pads to help those less fortunate in Lake County. They joined General Manager **Jerry Angelo** at the Northern Illinois Food Bank where they helped inspect, sort, label, and package frozen meat for distribution. In the two hours they were there, the guys packed 371 boxes containing 7,420 pounds of beef, pork, and poultry, which provided over 6,000 meals to families in need throughout Northern Illinois. This was the first of four volunteer activities the rookies will participate in during 2005 as part of the new "Rookie Rally" program, which was created by the Bears Community Relations department. The goal of the "Rookie Rally" is to involve the team's first-year players, as a group, in charitable activities throughout the season. This will help them learn more about their new community, serve several worthwhile charitable organizations in the area, and bond together as a group.



(L-R) Bears staffer Kate Rackow and rookies Leroy Smith, Rod Wilson and Cedric Benson help box food at the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The second "Rookie Rally" event took place on Thursday, June 23 at Chicago's New City YMCA with a visit to the **Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps**. The afternoon began with a question and answer session in the YMCA's air-conditioned gym, where campers asked the rookies how



they got involved in football, if they played any other sports, and what position they think is most important. After the players were introduced, it was time to head out to the field where the rookies helped coach different drills and taught the youngsters a variety of non-contact football skills and activities.

Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps are week-long, non-contact day camps that teach athletic skills, football skills, and life skills to both experienced football players and newcomers to the game. Kids, ages 6-14, learn to run, pass, catch, defend, form block, form tackle, and explode out of a stance with proper technique and improved speed. The Camps are sponsored by Gatorade and are available in 17 different neighborhoods throughout Chicagoland. For more information please call (312) 226-7776 or log on to [www.ProSportsExperience.com/bears](http://www.ProSportsExperience.com/bears).



(L-R) Rookies Steve Larsen, Brandon McGowan, and Leroy Smith run drills with campers at a Chicago Bears Youth Football Camp.

# HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS



(L-R) Bears staffers Ryan Huzjak and Roger Hacker work with tackle Marc Colombo at the Bears "Paws for a Cause" event.

On Tuesday, May 24 Bears players and staff left their offices and traded their phones and dress shoes for hammers and work boots to assist at a home build for the Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity. Founded in 1988, Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity has built 54 homes, providing affordable housing to more than 225 adults and children. **Marc Colombo, Terrence Metcalf, Jerrell Pippens** and 16 members of the Bears front office staff spent several hours working together on various projects at the construction site. By the end of the event, the hardworking group had nearly completed the task of installing siding on an entire

house! This event was part of the Bears "Paws for a Cause" volunteer initiative, which encourages members of the organization to actively make a difference in the lives of people who are most in need through hands-on efforts.

## ATHLETES & ASTHMA

Would you know what to do if someone had an asthma attack? Most people don't know how to identify one, let alone respond to it. That is one of the main reasons why the American Lung Association of Illinois and Suburban Asthma Consortium have developed the new "Athletes & Asthma" program. It is a free training program that teaches coaches, trainers, and physical education professionals how to identify and appropriately respond to exercise-induced youth asthma. Bears head athletic trainer **Tim Bream** and long-snapper **Patrick Mannelly** helped announce the "Athletes & Asthma" program at a press conference at Halas Hall on Tuesday, May 3, which was also World Asthma Day. Mannelly spoke about his personal experience growing up as an athlete with asthma. If you are interested in learning more about the "Athletes & Asthma" program, please contact the American Lung Association at (630) 260-9600 or [www.lungil.org](http://www.lungil.org).



Patrick Mannelly helps kick off the Athletes & Asthma Program at a press conference.



Bears mascot Staley visits with kids at Shriners Hospital.

## EVERYBODY NEEDS A HUG

In March 2005, the Chicago Bears launched a new community outreach program called "Bear Hugs." This program was developed by the Bears to help lift the spirits of children in hospitals throughout the Chicagoland area with the help of Bears mascot Staley. Staley visits various hospitals each month and spreads cheer to young patients. Staley has already visited the new University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital, Rush University Medical Center, Shriners Hospital, LaRabida Children's Hospital, and Loyola University Medical Center. This month, he will bring smiles to the children at Lutheran General Hospital. To find out more about the "Bear Hugs" program, please log on to [www.ChicagoBears.com/community](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/community) or call (847) 739-5308.

# BEARS CARE GALA

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bears Care Gala, "Brian's Song...So That Others May Live to Sing," was held in the Cadillac Club at Soldier Field on Friday, May 6. Over 800 people, including many Bears players and front office staff, turned out for the black-tie event, making it the largest and most successful Gala to date, raising over \$725,000 for research and treatment in the fight against breast and ovarian cancer. Bears alumni player **Tom Waddle** served as the Master of Ceremonies, and current players **Brian Urlacher, Rex Grossman, Muhsin Muhammad, John Tait, Fred Miller, Mike Brown, Mike Green, Jerry Azumah, Alex Brown, Charles Tillman, Patrick Mannely, Justin Gage, Bobby Wade, Nathan Vasher, Bryan Johnson, Ian Scott, Roberto Garza, Fred Miller** and **Michael Haynes** attended and assisted in announcing the winners of the raffle drawing. The Bears Care Galas have raised over \$5 million in the past 10 years. Thank you to everyone who helped make this evening such a success!



(L-R) Fred Miller, Jerry Azumah, Bobby Wade, Justin Gage, Muhsin Muhammad, Charles Tillman and Nathan Vasher pose for a picture at the Bears Care Gala.



(L-R) Mike Ditka, Marcus Reese and Dustin Lyman volunteer at Catholic Charities' St. Vincent Center.

## NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

In recognition of National Hunger Awareness Day on June 7, Bears players **Dustin Lyman** and **Marcus Reese** joined former Bears coach and Hall of Famer **Mike Ditka** in volunteering at Catholic Charities' St. Vincent Center by serving the weekly Tuesday Night Supper to over 150 hungry and/or homeless men, women, and children. National Hunger Awareness Day was instituted four years ago in order to bring national attention to the severe but solvable problem of domestic hunger. Currently, approximately 35 million Americans do not know where they will get their next meal, and in the state of Illinois, one in six children go to bed hungry. St. Vincent Center offers dinner three times a week to those less fortunate.

## "FORE" A GREAT CAUSE!

Bears players and coaches hit the links for a great cause on Thursday, June 16 at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual i\*mag\*jen Charities Celebrity Golf Classic at Green Garden Country Club in Frankfort, IL. **Lovie Smith** joined members of his staff and current players **Rob Droege** and **Gabe Reid** to help raise money for various charities by teeing it up with many of the 300 participants. Alumni players such as **Dan Hampton, Steve McMichael, Glen Kozlowski, and Jim McMahon** were also in attendance. Proceeds from the day will be distributed to various charitable organizations, including Bears Care and Youth for Life: Remembering Walter Payton, an organ donor awareness program. The Bears are proud to continue supporting this wonderful event.



Dan Hampton (in red) looks on as his teammate putts at the i\*mag\*jen Charities Celebrity Golf Classic.

## ROCKY AND ROB



Lovie Smith and Brian Urlacher pose for a picture with Rob Komosa at mini-camp.

The Bears were thrilled to host two very special young men at the team's mini-camp at Halas Hall on Friday, May 20. Rob Komosa and Rocky Clark, who were paralyzed in separate incidents while playing high school football, have developed a special relationship with the Bears over the years. After spending the morning watching practice, they had a great time talking and catching up with the numerous players who stopped by to say hello. Rocky and Rob were pleased with how the team looked during work-outs, and they are very optimistic about the 2005 season.

The Dreams for Kids campaign to raise \$250,000 for a wheelchair accessible house for Rocky Clark is still underway. Rocky currently resides in a small bedroom in his mother's modest home in Robbins,

IL. There is no space for his medical equipment or his special needs, and this arrangement impedes his health. If you are interested in helping Rocky, donations should be made payable to DREAMS FOR KIDS – ROCKY CLARK FUND, 218 N. Jefferson, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60661. Dreams for Kids is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization, which works to improve the quality of life of children with disabilities. You may contact Dreams for Kids at (312) 669-8859 with any questions.



Rocky Clark makes a new friend in Muhsin Muhammad at mini-camp.

## RELAY FOR LIFE

Bernard Berrian supported the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life on Friday, June 17 by participating in the "Kids' Walk" to kick off the event. The walk was held at Lake Forest Hospital and supported the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff chapter of the American Cancer Society. During this overnight event, teams of people take turns walking or running laps in order to raise money to support the efforts of the ACS. To learn more about the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life, please visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Keith Belton.....June 1, 1981  
Alex Brown.....June 4, 1979  
Olin Kreutz.....June 9, 1977  
Marcus Reese.....June 15, 1981  
Jerrell Pippens.....June 30, 1980  
Adrian Peterson.....July 1, 1979  
Darrell Campbell.....July 6, 1981  
Antoineo Harris.....July 17, 2005  
Rashied Davis.....July 24, 1979  
Greg White.....July 25, 1979

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