



IT BEARS MENTIONING.....

December 2004



'TIS THE SEASON TO HELP!

Jerry Azumah and Charles Tillman helped kick-off the 16th annual Chicago Bears/Menards Coat drive at a press conference on November 15. They talked about the difference a warm jacket can make to those less fortunate during the cold Chicago winters and challenged fans to donate what they could.

Bear fans accepted that challenge when the Chicago Bears took on the Indianapolis Colts on November 21 at Soldier Field. Hundreds of generous fans arrived at the stadium armed with winter coats to be donated to the Coat Drive. Approximately 20 volunteers from Cristo Rey School and



Meyers Movers manned collection boxes stationed

at gate entrances around the stadium. By the end of the first quarter, many collection boxes were overflowing as a result of the generosity shown by fans. The stadium collection drive is just one element of the Chicago Bears/Menards Coat Drive campaign, which runs through January 17, 2005. Winter coats, scarves, gloves, and mittens can be dropped off at any of the 39 Menards stores located throughout Chicagoland or at



Salvation Army Thrift Stores. For more information on store locations, please log on to www.chicagobears.com/community. Your donation can help make this holiday season and winter a little warmer for those less fortunate. Thanks to all who helped.



BEARS SALUTE THE MILITARY

In honor of Veteran's Day, Bears players **Patrick Mannelly** and **Brad Maynard** visited Hines VA Hospital in Hines, IL on Tuesday, November 9. The Bears spent the morning visiting with U.S. veterans and hospital staff members before leading the group in a game of Bears football trivia. Pat and Brad also shot a national commercial as part of the NFL "Join the Team" volunteer initiative. The spot aired Thanksgiving Day on FOX-TV as the Bears battled the Dallas Cowboys.



TACKLES FOR TURKEYS

On Tuesday, November 9, Brian Urlacher helped make sure that many underprivileged families in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood had a very happy Thanksgiving. Cadillac generously purchased over 400 turkeys that Brian and staff from the Greater Chicago Food Depository helped distribute to Pilsen residents. Cadillac has partnered with the Bears on this event for the past four years,



and once again, it was a welcomed event for the Greater Chicago Food Depository, which is one of the largest food banks in the country. Each week, more than 91,300 men, women, and children rely on food provided by the Greater Chicago Food Depository through its network of 600 soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelter programs in Cook County. Last year the Food Depository distributed more than 40 million pounds of food, the equivalent of more than 84,300 meals each day, for people at risk of hunger in our community.

HOMETOWN HUDDLE

With the help of the United Way, Lance Briggs and Craig Krenzel gave thanks and gave back to the Chicago community on Tuesday, November 16 by participating in two hands-on volunteer projects as part of the NFL/United Way "Hometown Huddle." Lance Briggs supported the youth mentoring project at Marillac Social



Center in Chicago by assisting in the

creation of the "Room for Winning" - a positive space for the youth mentoring program. The Bears and the NFL donated a computer, software, office furniture, resource books and more to the room, and Lance led a dedication ceremony that was attended by the mentors and students who participate in the program. Each child made a banner to represent their future goals and hung it in the room as inspiration. Craig Krenzel supported the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake County in

Waukegan by running football drills with the children and signing autographs for employees in exchange for their commitment to donate five hours of volunteer time at the Boys & Girls Club. The Bears donated flag football equipment to the facility and also had a pizza party for the kids after Craig put their football skills to the test.

HONOR WALTER PAYTON ON DECEMBER 5TH

The Chicago Bears will be hosting a Toy Drive in honor of "Sweetness" #34 Walter Payton prior to the Bears vs. Vikings game on December 5th at Soldier Field. We encourage everyone attending the game to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the **Walter & Connie Payton Foundation**. Collection boxes will be located at most entrance gates and other areas surrounding the stadium. Please join us in celebrating Walter's life by bringing a new toy to the Bears game on December 5th!





BEARS “PAWS FOR A CAUSE”

Numerous Bears employees turned off their computers and left their phones and desks for an afternoon to lend a helping hand during this holiday season by participating in the Chicago Bears “Paws for a Cause” volunteer program. On Tuesday, November 30, Bears players, executives, and staff joined together to support the organization-wide volunteer

event to assist the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Linebacker **Joe Odom** and defensive tackle **Darrell Campbell** joined front office staff members from all departments in the organization to help inspect and repackage various canned and boxed goods along an assembly line in preparation for distribution. This event is one component of the Bears “Paws for a Cause” community volunteerism initiative, and it served to strengthen the Chicago Bears commitment to assisting those less fortunate during the holiday season.



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, presented by Bank One. The theme for player visits is character development, goal setting, and commitment to

excellence. Players who have participated in Bears School Outreach so far this year include: **Alex Brown, Desmond Clark, Mike Green, Rex Grossman, Hunter Hillenmeyer, Todd Johnson, John Tait, David Terrell, Charles Tillman, and Bobby Wade.** More than 7,000 students benefit annually from this program.



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.





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 stories describe the events that are depicted in the photos for the December home games. Stories pertaining to photos for our January 2 game will be featured in the January issue 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.



Alex Brown Helps Habitat for Humanity Minnesota Vikings vs. Chicago Bears December 5, 2004

When the residents of a recently constructed Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity house moved into their home, they may have considered painting one

room orange and blue. That is because five Bears players, including defensive end Alex Brown, traded their uniforms and helmets for hammers and tool belts one day to help build the home. The players spent the day at the Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity construction site carrying framed walls, pounding nails and helping with other aspects of the build.

Founded in 1988, Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit ecumenical Christian group that builds decent housing for families in need. In September, the group began construction of its 50th home, providing affordable housing to over 45 adults and 116 children. To learn more about the Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity, please log on to www.rockfordhabitat.org.



Santa Urlacher Brightens the Holidays Houston Texans vs. Chicago Bears December 19, 2004

Brian Urlacher sported his Santa Claus outfit at the American Brain Tumor Association's holiday party in December 2003. The annual luncheon was held at the Hilton

Northbrook Hotel and is for the families of kids suffering from brain tumors. As part of Brian's Santa duties, he passed out gifts and greeted the children throughout the event. Each year a "surprise" Bears player dresses up as Santa to help support this wonderful cause.



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. 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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Qasim Mitchell.....December 3, 1979

Tank Johnson.....December 7, 1981

Joe Odom.....December 14, 1979

Cameron Worrell.....December 14, 1979

Todd Johnson.....December 18, 1979

Rex Tucker.....December 20, 1976

R.W. McQuarters.....December 21, 1976

Bernard Berrian.....December 27, 1980

HEALTHY LAMBS VISIT HALAS HALL

As a reward for their participation in the Healthy Lambs program, which promotes health and fitness, several residents from Lambs Farm had the opportunity to visit Halas Hall, have lunch, and watch a Bears practice on November 17. While the rainy weather kept the group inside most of the afternoon, it certainly didn't dampen their spirits. A great time was had by all! Located in Libertyville, Illinois, Lambs Farm is a place that, most importantly, empowers an extraordinary group of more than 250 people with developmental disabilities to lead personally fulfilling lives.

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