



IT BEARS MENTIONING....

July 2004

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...

Many members of the Chicago Bears staff left their offices and traded their suits and computers for work boots and rakes on June



15th to participate in various volunteer projects at Humboldt Park on Chicago's west side. The activity was part of the Bears "Paws for a Cause" Community Relations initiative that encourages players, coaches, and staff to make an active difference in the community through volunteerism.



in several different activities. Half of the volunteers went to a neighborhood playground where they picked up debris and pulled weeds before raking and distributing new fibar under and around the play equipment, while the other half did arts, crafts and games and had a picnic with a group of children from a nearby day care center. After lunch all of the volunteers joined together to distribute mulch around trees and shrubs near the Humboldt Park Play Area and Boat House.

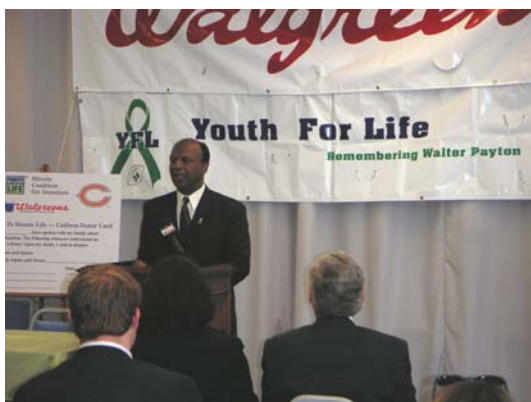


Humboldt is one of the largest parks in Chicago with 16 baseball diamonds, several basketball courts, a pool, a beach, walking paths and much more. The Humboldt Park community struggles with a high crime rate and suffers from extreme joblessness. The park provides a number of year-round programs and activities for adults and children in the community, which is where most of its funding is derived. Volunteer assistance is vital in keeping program fees affordable and therefore keeping children in the community active and off the streets.

The Chicago Bears "Paws for a Cause" initiative addresses the need to help those less fortunate through hands-on volunteer efforts. This program encourages everyone to take time out of their busy schedules for one day to actively make a difference in the lives of people who are most in need. To help support the "Paws for a Cause" initiative, Bears staff members, coaches, and players have the opportunity to participate in various organization-wide volunteer events that are scheduled each year.



TEAMING UP FOR A GREAT CAUSE



The Chicago Bears recently teamed up with Walgreens, the Illinois Secretary of State's office, and the Illinois Coalition on Donation to announce a new statewide initiative educating high school students about organ and tissue donation. The initiative was kicked off with a press event at Dunbar Vocational Career

Academy. Dunbar's football players, students, faculty and staff were on hand to help officials announce a new partnership between the Bears' /NFL's Youth for Life: *Remembering Walter Payton* program and the Illinois Coalition on Donation, funded through a grant from Walgreens. Participants at the event included Connie Payton, Walgreens executives, Secretary of State Jesse White, Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network President/CEO Jerry Anderson, and the four founders of the Chicago Bears' Youth For Life: *Remembering Walter Payton* program.



Components of the new program include classroom and web-based education at high schools throughout Illinois, awareness and donor sign-up booths at the Bears 2004 training camp and home games,

and Chicago Bears appearances at high schools during the school year. The initiative unites two of Illinois' most successful organ and tissue donation education programs. The goal is to provide students with information before they are asked at state driver's license facilities whether they wish to enroll in the state organ/tissue donor registry. The registry is coordinated by the Illinois Secretary of State's office. "Giving someone a second chance at life is a wonderful gift," Jesse White said. "By teaching our young people early on about organ and tissue donation, we help them make informed decisions when they are asked about the donor registry when they obtain their driver's license or identification card."

Youth for Life: *Remembering Walter Payton* is a not-for-profit campaign to educate and encourage young adults to register as organ donors. It was founded by Brittney Payton, daughter of late Chicago Bears star Walter Payton, along with Mark Pendleton, Erin Kinsella and John McCaskey. Walter Payton, who retired in 1987 as the NFL's all-time leading rusher, died in 1999 of a liver ailment while waiting for an organ donation. For information about Youth For Life: *Remembering Walter Payton*, call (847) 739-5325 or log on to org-www.chicagobears.com/yfl/.



TEST YOUR FOOTBALL SKILLS!

The Chicago Bears are supporting Special Olympics Illinois' second annual "Punt, Pass, and Kick" competition. This skills competition will take place on August 3, 2004 at Bears Training Camp in Bourbonnais. Participation in the competition is open to the public. Participants can compete in various divisions including adult male, adult female, boys, girls, and corporate. Contestants will also have an opportunity to compete in the "Beat The Pro" division, where former Bears players will compete against individuals. All proceeds from the competition will benefit Special Olympics Illinois, and some Special Olympics athletes will be present to cheer on the participants. For more information or to join the fun, please call (800) 394-0562.

A YOUNG BEAR TALKS ABOUT FOOTBALL AND LIFE


Although Bears first-round draft pick Tommie Harris is still learning the ins and outs of the NFL himself, he took on the role of teacher and mentor recently when he visited a group of youngsters at Allendale Association in Lake Villa. Harris gave an inspirational speech to the children before taking part in a



football game with them. Contrary to his role as defensive tackle with the Bears, Harris assumed the role of designated play caller and passer for Allendale. His passes might not have been right on the mark, but the kids at Allendale didn't seem to mind a bit. The hour-long game was filled with laughter, good-natured teasing, and a lot of fun.

Allendale Association is a private, not-for-profit social service agency, dedicated to excellence and innovation in the care, education, treatment, and advocacy for troubled children, youth, and their families. These youth and their families receive care

and treatment through Allendale's residential treatment programs, day treatment, special education schools, or from community-based clinical programs and services. These programs include an outpatient counseling center, foster care licensing, training and support, independent living/transition support, and mentoring services. Allendale helps over 600 children, youth, and families on an annual basis.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Craig Krenzel.....July 1, 1981
Adrian Peterson.....July 1, 1979
Darrell Campbell.....July 6, 1981
Marty Booker.....July 31, 1976

HOSPITAL BINGO



Bears Head Coach Lovie Smith tried his hand at a different type of play calling on Tuesday, June 22 when he, linebacker Lance Briggs, and tackle Qasim Mitchell were the featured hosts of Children's Memorial Hospital's "Hospital BINGO." This action-packed game is similar to regular Bingo - except instead of calling numbers with the Bingo letters, the host calls hospital terms. For example, some of the winning squares included "B - Stethoscope," "N - Bedpan," and "G - Adhesive bandage." The game was designed to educate the

children about various medical terms, so their stay in the hospital is not quite so scary and unfamiliar. The game was played in the Brown Family Life Center of the hospital, and approximately 25 children gathered in the room to play. The best part of "Hospital BINGO," however, is that the entire game is broadcast over a closed-circuit television network, which connects to all of the patient rooms in the hospital. This allows the children who are too sick to leave their rooms to still play "Hospital BINGO!"



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