



# IT BEARS MENTIONING.....

December 2003

## HELPING HANDS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

It was not necessarily business as usual at Halas Hall on Tuesday, December 2. Many offices were empty, some phones went unanswered, and the building was quieter than normal. That is because numerous Bears employees were participating in the Chicago Bears "Paws for a Cause"




volunteer program. Bears players, executives and staff united together for the day to support the organization-wide volunteer event to assist the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Front office staff from all departments in the organization joined Bears President Ted Phillips and General Manager Jerry Angelo to help needy families during the holidays. Also supporting the effort were offensive tackle/guard Mike Gandy,

linebacker Joe Odom, offensive guard Bryan Anderson, offensive tackle Marc Colombo, offensive tackle Qasim Mitchell, fullback Jason McKie, defensive tackle Israel I donije, linebacker Marcus Reese, and defensive end Cliff Washburn. The hard working Bears helped the Food Depository by inspecting and re-packing potatoes along an assembly line and weighing them in preparation for



distribution. This event is one component of the Bears community volunteerism initiative, and it served to strengthen the Chicago Bears' commitment to assisting those less fortunate during the holiday season.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**

Oasim Mitchell..... Dec. 3, 1979  
Mike Green..... Dec. 6, 1976  
Joe Odom..... Dec. 14, 1979  
Cameron Worrell..... Dec. 14, 1979  
Todd Johnson..... Dec. 18, 1978  
Rex Tucker..... Dec. 20, 1976  
R.W. McQuarters..... Dec. 21, 1976

# KORDELL SCORES OFF THE FIELD

On Monday, November 24, Kordell Stewart spent the afternoon handing off and passing...but it wasn't on the football field. Instead, Kordell and the Bears, Cadillac, and the Greater Chicago Food Depository teamed up to make sure it was a very happy Thanksgiving for many families in Chicago's Humboldt Park area this year. Turkeys, potatoes, orange juice, and warm socks were handed out to approximately 400 residents of the San Lucas organization in the Humboldt Park neighborhood.

Kordell filled bags with turkeys and potatoes and visited with the residents as they proceeded through the food line. Cadillac, a division of General Motors, has partnered with the Bears on this event for three consecutive years. The Greater Chicago Food Depository is one of the largest food banks in the country, distributing nutritious food to more than 309,000 different adults and children in Cook County annually. Last year the Food Depository distributed 36.1 million pounds of food, valued at more than \$54 million - that is the equivalent of 74,400 meals a day, 365 days a year. The need for food continues to grow due to the steady increase of unemployed, elderly and sick people who depend upon the donated food to keep them from going hungry.

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## GENEROUS FANS SHOW TRUE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

The Bears dominated on the field against the Cardinals on November 30, but Bears

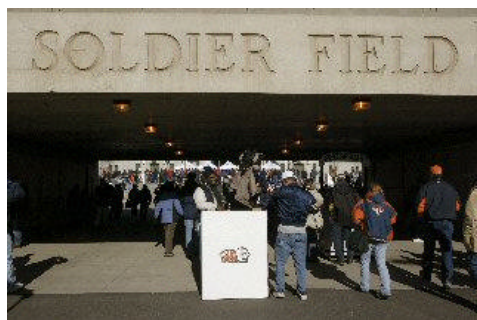


fans were even more dominant off-the-field prior to the game.

Hundreds of fans arrived at Soldier Field armed with new or gently used coats to be donated to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Bears/Sears Coat Drive. By the time the team kicked off, many of the collection boxes were full and the volunteers' hearts were warmed by the

generosity showed by Bears fans. Over 40 volunteers from Sears and Meyers Movers kindly gave their time during pre-game and through the first quarter of the game to help with the coat collection. This coat collection is just one element of the Chicago Bears/Sears Coat Drive campaign that runs through January 15, 2004. New or gently

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bears Care Gala will be held on Friday, May 14, 2004. More details to follow.



used coats can be dropped off at any of 25 Sears stores throughout Chicagoland or at Salvation Army Thrift Stores. For more information on store locations, please log on to [www.chicagobears.com](http://www.chicagobears.com). Your donation can help make this holiday season and winter a little warmer for those less fortunate. Thanks to all who helped!

# THE GRASS IS GREENER...



The grass never looked greener on the New City YMCA's football field than it did on November 4. That was the day that community leaders, the Chicago Bears, and Local Initiatives Support Coalition/ Chicago joined together for a kickoff ceremony to dedicate the New City YMCA's Touchdown Field. The New City YMCA recently had the football field

renovated with the help of a \$90,000 grant by the NFL through its Grassroots Field program. Approximately 100 children joined in the inaugural game, which was coached by defensive tackle Bryan Robinson and defensive end Phillip Daniels. It was a hard fought battle, but Coach Daniels has bragging rights for this year - as his team beat Coach Robinson's team 21-14.



## BACK TO SCHOOL

The youngsters at Washington Elementary School in Evanston had a special addition to their lesson plans on Tuesday, December 2. Bears quarterback Rex Grossman visited the school and gave a one-hour presentation to the students and faculty as part of the "Take A Bear To School" package. The visit by Grossman was a prize raffled and won at the 2003 Bears Care Gala. Bears Care, a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, offers this prize each year at the annual Gala in May. At the same time across town, Hunter

Hillmeyer visited Maine West High School to promote "The Hunt For Food and Shelter, Kids Helping Kids" program, which is co-sponsored by Abbott Laboratories, Aon, I-mag-jen Charities, Turner Barton Malow Kenny Construction, and Visa. Hillmeyer stressed the importance of community service and helping others less fortunate during the holiday season. Maine West High School was among the top schools last year, raising \$2,500 to support shelters and food pantries in the Chicago area.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR.....

- Dec. 2, 2003 Bears "Paws for a Cause" volunteer event at the Greater Chicago Food Depository
- Dec. 7, 2003 Bears vs. Packers (@ Green Bay)
- Dec. 11, 2003 Bears "Coach of the Week" winners visit Halas Hall
- Dec. 14, 2003 BEARS vs. VIKINGS (Soldier Field)
- Dec. 14, 2003 Bears "Coach of the Week" winners honored during pre-game
- Dec. 16, 2003 Bears Community Quarterback award luncheon
- Dec. 21, 2003 BEARS vs. REDSKINS (Soldier Field)
- Dec. 28, 2003 Bears vs. Chiefs (@ Kansas City)

## BEARS WIVES HELP BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAYS

Led by Laurie Urlacher and Gail Jauron, the wives of several Bears players helped make Thanksgiving happier and more enjoyable for many families again this year. For the third consecutive year, Bears wives put together baskets full of non-perishable food items, a gift certificate for a turkey, and assorted goodies, and distributed them to needy families through Holy Family Church in Waukegan during Thanksgiving week.

And the generosity of the Bears wives doesn't stop there. In order to help make the holidays a little brighter for many of the underprivileged children and families at the church, the wives implemented an "Adopt-A-Family" program which takes place in December. This worthy program randomly matches members of the Bears family with families in the church network. The generous Bears purchase an assortment of holiday gifts for their adopted families, and these gifts are distributed to the families just prior to the holidays. The Bears wives will also support the Lake County Haven - a transitional homeless shelter for women and children - by purchasing holiday gifts for the residents.



# BEARS OF THE FUTURE

So many kids dream of being a professional football player, and the Chicago Bears and the NFL try our best to help make that dream become a reality. We support the NFL stars of tomorrow by offering a variety of youth football opportunities throughout Chicagoland. One such program is NFL Punt, Pass and Kick. This program creates a

lively and engaging forum for boys and girls ages 8-15 to compete separately against their peers in punting, passing, and placekicking. The Bears hosted the Championship Round of the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick competition prior to the Bears vs. Chargers game on November 2 at Soldier Field. Forty talented boys and girls squared off for the chance to advance to the National Finals, which will take place during a NFL playoff game in January. For more information, please log on to [www.nflyouthfootball.com](http://www.nflyouthfootball.com) or call 1-800 NFL-SNAP.



## KIDS WIN! KIDS WIN!

Approximately 400 children from Maryville Youth Academy were given an evening to remember at Harry Carey's restaurant on Tuesday, November 25. The lucky



youngsters were treated to a complete Thanksgiving feast of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, pumpkin pie, and all the trimmings as part of Harry Carey's restaurant's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the Children of Maryville Youth Academy event.



Several Bears players joined the children on this festive

evening, including cornerback R.W. McQuarters, tight end Dustin Lyman, offensive tackle/guard Mike Gandy, offensive tackle Steve Edwards, and running back Anthony Thomas. After their bellies were full, the kids enjoyed entertainment by The Blues Brothers, Holy Cow, and Santa and Mrs. Claus.



### BEARS FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

The Chicago Bears congratulate the flag football players and coaches from Lake Forest High School for winning the 2003 Bears Flag Football tournament. Lake Forest defeated Wheaton-Warrenville South 18-12 in double overtime on October 25 to claim the title. These flag football champions were recently honored during a pre-game ceremony at the Bears vs. Rams game on November 16 at Soldier Field.

The Chicago Bears annually host a 32-team flag football tournament for high schools in the Chicago area that offer flag football as an intramural sport.