



*The Friends of Baseball
Newsletter*

Vol. 1, No. 2

August 23, 2006

Dear "Friends of Baseball"

With our first round of grants completed in late spring, the Trustees of Friends of Baseball (FOB) are very gratified to implement their mission of the enrichment of youth, parents and their relationship through baseball. It has been a wonderful summer of youth baseball, with new friends and partners, many who have realized that they, too, can participate in the Friends of Baseball community.

Our Trustees would like to thank all of the individuals who assisted us by taking personal ownership in FOB, and its mission, to play a role in insuring our collective success.

Friends of Baseball Announces Two New Grants

We are pleased to announce seed money grants to two organizations that are resolved to launch "A League of Their Own." The first started with the vision and perseverance of Cliff Munson. The North Salem Vikings became affiliated with Junior Baseball of Oregon when they formed their first team four years ago. The formation of a second and third team has begun in order to fill out their district. A grant from FOB will assist in purchasing uniforms for the North Salem Vikings.

Willie Lee Grant lives in the Woodlawn Neighborhood in northeast Portland, where his dream was to provide youth baseball in late summer and early fall for the neighborhood children. Willie recently founded The Jackie Robinson Youth Baseball League for this specific purpose. While the formation of his league is still in the early stages, there is certainly no shortage of commitment in meeting its

objectives of fun, sportsmanship, and fair play. FOB is providing scholarships for players who might not otherwise have the ability to participate.

While FOB finds amazing inspiration from all of our grantees, Cliff and Willie clearly exhibit what a few individuals with passion for the game, community and a very big heart can accomplish!

Friends of Baseball Launches Habitat for Youth Baseball

Since its inception, individuals and organizations have contacted FOB wondering how they might play a role in assisting our grantees. Some have offered to help with field maintenance, clinics and capital improvements; certainly the need to help these leagues is apparent. We are currently compiling a list of interested individuals for future reference, with a questionnaire to be forwarded to them in the weeks ahead. The purpose of the questionnaire is to determine what their areas of interest might be, and to get a sense of their baseball background. If you would like to participate, please check out our website friendsofbaseball.org for further information, or reply to this email with your request to be contacted.

We Are In Search of Diamonds in the Rough

And you can help ... and share in the reward. Our Trustees are in constant search of organizations, teams and leagues that may be financially challenged in getting the game on the field. While we would like to help all baseball youth related organizations, our limited resources make it important to focus on those who demonstrate the greatest need in their community. Individuals like you have guided us to these organizations, as these organizations may be the same ones that are least able or likely to find us. All it takes is a brief conversation or phone call to assist us in finding these jewels. Help us help them! Please make a contact, ask the question, on behalf of Friends of Baseball.

Friends of Baseball Announces New Trustee

The Trustees of Friends of Baseball have recently announced that Dick McClain has been nominated, and has agreed to serve, as a member of our board. Dick has a storied history with youth baseball in Oregon. His coaching career in High School, College and American Legion baseball spanned over forty years, with his teams providing him with over 1,200 wins, and the only American League National Champion from the State of Oregon. Dick is currently the Executive Director of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges. FOB is excited to have Dick's field-level experience, and honored to welcome him to our board.

Check Out the Updates and “Headlines”

We have recently added a number of updates in the “headline” link on our website at friendsofbaseball.org. They include photos and announcements with regards to our grant placements, and recent media releases from *The Oregonian*, *The Portland Business Journal* and *The Daily Astorian*. We are very thankful for this coverage, as it will help us to maximize our potential in finding those organizations in need.

Rockwood Junior Baseball Names “Friends of Baseball Field”

The board of directors of Rockwood Junior Baseball announced in early June the re-naming of their main field. This beautiful field, surrounded by fifty-foot fir trees, will now be called “Friends of Baseball Field.” On behalf of the Trustees of FOB, this is truly one of the greatest honors that could have been given. Check out the photo of this field at friendsofbaseball.org

Check Out the Newly Updated Team Shop

Out with the old, in with the new! We recently updated the products in our team store, with a brand new color wave for our logo. We think you will like it. The Team Shop supports our teams with products and awards, and assists in covering a portion of the costs in maintaining our website and expanding community outreach. Your purchases allow us to retain our commitment to provide 100% of our endowment to youth baseball grants in our community. The team shop can be accessed from a link on our website or as a direct link at:

www.cafepress.com/fobaseball

One Last Favor . . .

We encourage you to pass along this quarterly newsletter to any and all parties interested in youth baseball. With your help, our long-term hope is to expand the reach of FOB, not simply as an Oregon foundation, but one that can have significant impact throughout the Pacific Northwest, and perhaps beyond. This can happen with your help and enthusiasm.

UPDATE: The Oregon Disability Foundation’s first wheelchair baseball event had to be rescheduled due to a conflict. I will keep you informed of the new date.

Warm Regards,

Friends of Baseball

If you would like to unsubscribe to this quarterly newsletter, simply hit reply and email a message to unsubscribe.

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“A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives. . .” Jackie Robinson