



*. . . The Friends of Baseball Newsletter. . .*

**Vol. 2, No. 3**

September 6, 2007

Dear "*Friend of Baseball,*"

**W**e have just completed a truly exciting and fulfilling summer baseball/softball season for Friends of Baseball. Because of the amazing efforts of the thousands of volunteers, youth baseball continues to be very strong in our community. While I consistently hear of growing registration in the younger age groups, levels of participation seem to erode with the 12 and older crowd. This is going to be one of the target areas for our trustees going forward. We would love any feedback you might have in how to stem the tide.

***We're Expanding Our Reach in Oregon!***

In a recently completed board meeting, our Trustees unanimously approved expanding the region we serve in North West Oregon. Effectively immediately, we will begin accepting grant applications from areas south to Corvallis, and on the Oregon coast south to Newport. Additionally, this allows us to serve Albany, Philomath and all communities north to the Oregon boarder. Please check out the map on our website under "Grants/Regions Served."

This expansion is made possible by the increasing number of resource partners who believe in our work. We are dedicated to peeling back the layers in order to first and foremost, serve those where the need is greatest. On many occasions we have received a "heads up" from individuals such as you regarding those in need. We ask that you PLEASE stay in touch and also help us get the word out in the new regions we now serve, as well as our entire region. *One way in which you can help would simply be to forward this email to other individuals in your circle of youth baseball/ softball enthusiasts.*

***FOB Announces Grantees***

Our trustees recently announced the funding of two organizations. ***South Salem Saxon Booster Club and Hollywood Little League*** will be receiving well deserved grants for their organizations. These two groups are committed to growing their organizations and increasing local participation in their programs. We are thrilled to assist with their own efforts in helping to bring their dreams to reality. More details about these two grants are available on our website.

Additionally, The Portland Beavers/Portland Timbers Community Foundation was provided a copy of the Hollywood Little League grant request by FOB and has

announced an additional \$10,000 grant for their new field!! Thank you to Merritt Paulson and this organization for their amazing support. FOB could not be more inspired by this gift and their collective effort and commitment!

### ***Friends of Baseball to Provide Team Sponsorships For 2008***

Our Trustees have been busy with their planning for 2008. We have heard from many of our league partners of their difficulties in lining up enough equipment for their leagues to expand when enrollment provides this opportunity. Our board will now be accepting nominating grants for the purpose of supplying equipment for teams when this occurs. We also understand that this can occur late in the organizational process. If you know of a league that is planning on forming a new team, and who may qualify for our assistance, we hope to hear from you as well as them. This is what we are looking for and how we might help:

- Please use our standard grant application criteria on our website.
- This grant is intended to get a NEW team on its feet with assistance for one year.
- FOB will review all nominations with a goal of assisting up to three teams in 2008.
- We will provide up to \$2,000 per grant in funds and or equipment from our resource partners.
- Bats, balls, catcher's equipment, uniforms and other team related equipment will be areas for our assistance. Mitts and cleats may also be funded or provided as needed.
- Applications should be received prior to March 1, 2008; sooner for those teams organizing sooner. As these grants will have been pre-approved by our board, we will have the luxury of moving fairly quickly.
- Prior to funding, team enrollment will be reviewed in order to meet criteria.

Often in the winter months and from prior year enrollment, leagues can anticipate their needs for the coming year. Please help us get the word out. We are here to help, and looking forward to hearing from you!

### ***So, is Oregon. . . "Baseball HOT" or What?***

We would like to take a moment to congratulate the amazing success youth baseball teams have enjoyed over the past two seasons. Since FOB was launched in January 2005, we have been on the sidelines watching some remarkable team accomplishments in our state. To name but a few:

***Oregon State University: Two College World Series Championships***  
***Murrayhill Little League: Little League World Series 2006***  
***Lake Oswego Little League: Little League World Series 2007***  
***University of Oregon: Brings Back Baseball in 2009***

**In each and every instance these teams, and in some instances their leagues, have not competed at this level in DECADES!**

None of this could have been accomplished without the dedicated efforts and the inspiration in our youth baseball community. Congratulations to all of you, as you own a piece of these sparkling accomplishments!

## ***Boy, Have We Updated Our Team Shop!***

We have been in the process of updating our team shop that provides apparel relating to all that is Friends of Baseball. In fact, we have been having a great time creating some New Fun and Funky Designs that help get the word out in our community and beyond. Additionally, we have been able to lower the pricing on many of these items! We also have bulk pricing available should you be looking for a team or league fund raising project; helping both Your League and Your Community of Baseball. You can access our team shop from our website or directly at [www.cafepress.com/fobaseball](http://www.cafepress.com/fobaseball). Take a peek - we hope you enjoy.

## ***Can I Interest You In A Bottle Of Water?***

Speaking of innovative fundraising concepts, can I let you in on one that is very exciting? Putnam Youth Baseball, one of our grantees, developed an innovative concept this year. PYB generated close to \$2,400 by selling monogrammed bottles of water at all their league games and events. Very simply, they found six sponsors who paid \$200 each to feature their company's logo on the label of this highly prized "limited vintage" Putnam Baseball Water. They used their own league's logo as the label's centerpiece, with the sponsors' flanking its side. They were also able to get the art work donated, so their cost of bottling was covered by the sponsorships. Selling the water at \$1 a bottle provided them with 100% profit on the 2,400 bottles produced! Please contact me if I can provide you with further information and or contacts of how to get this program started for your league!

## ***Let's Start Planning Now For 2008!***

With planning now underway for the 2008 Baseball & Softball seasons, soon we will be reviewing grants from throughout our region. We often receive last minute grant requests that may not be able to be funded in time to meet their organization's time line. Our grant cycles are often in full swing months prior to actual funding. Obviously this requires some planning on the part of grantees. We hope the fall and winter months will provide organizations who meet our criteria the opportunity to develop their vision.

*Have a wonder fall. We'll be in touch in the months ahead.*

*Keenan*

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*Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others who might take interest!*

*Also check out our Team Shop at [www.cafepress.com/fobaseball](http://www.cafepress.com/fobaseball)*

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[newsletter-unsubscribe@friendsofbaseball.org](mailto:newsletter-unsubscribe@friendsofbaseball.org)**

***"A life is not important except in the impact it makes on other lives. . ." Jackie Robinson***

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