



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

**Vol. 3, No. 2**

May 29, 2008

Dear "*Friend of Baseball,*"

**I** always enjoy sharing what's going on with our teams, leagues and FOB. I'd like to first of all thank all of the individuals who have engaged with our organization over the past few months. This is very gratifying to both me and our board. We certainly can't fulfill our mission without all of your interest, inspiration and support. We've collectively taken on a wonderful cause that now, in our third year, has been more meaningful than any of us could have wrapped our arms around when we began this journey. Thank You!

***Vernonia and Clatskanie Leagues enjoying great seasons!***

Thanks to all of our partners that were referenced in the last newsletter, these two leagues are enjoying wonderful seasons this year. What a treat to see the restored fields in Clatskanie, and to know that Vernonia now has more baseball equipment than they had last year, much of it brand new! I'd like to thank two additional parties for taking us to home plate on this project. With your help and commitment we have raised well in excess of \$30,000 for these two leagues in **Donations** and **In-Kind** support!

The Portland Beavers and Portland Timbers Community Fund recently presented a check for \$2,000 to FOB to be shared by these leagues in their relief efforts. The Beavers and Timbers organization heard our plea and rang the bell one more time for our teams.

Jim Roberts of North- Northeast Metro Babe Ruth is creating a community service project in Vernonia to assist in upgrading their fields. Jim has secured \$1,000 in funding to finance the project, and teams of kids and volunteers to form a work party to get the job done. Jim simply wanted to get his kids involved with another group who has seen challenges that his teams have not personally encountered.

We thank and congratulate both of these partners and all the companies and individuals who made this season possible for these teams.

## ***Friends of Baseball Announces Six Grants***

### ***Special Olympics of Oregon ~ \$3,000 for related field equipment***

This organization promotes spring softball and tournaments throughout their region. If you have a chance, attend this year's final competition of the Oregon Special Olympics Summer Games, June 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, in Hillsboro. You won't regret it!

### ***Amity High School Baseball ~ \$4,390 for baseball field upgrades***

Amity has taken on the significant challenge of improving their field, not only for their safety and use, but for use by their entire community. Just wait a few months – they'll sparkle!

### ***Gresham High School ~ \$1,260 grant to complete hitting facility***

We partnered with this organization in the early stages of this facility. Since then, they've collected tens of thousands of dollars and in-kind gifts from supporters. With the building nearly complete and now being used, it was time to put a bow on their amazing efforts!

### ***Tillamook High School ~ \$5,000 challenge grant to build hitting facility***

Winter rains in this region make it imperative to have a place for their kids to work out and build their skills under any circumstances! Once completed, this facility will also be available for use throughout the community.

### ***Mt. Hood Junior Baseball ~ \$2,500 challenge grant for fields and tractor***

This strong league has community support. Some of their fields needed to be upgraded and better maintained to insure a safe and quality experience for all their players!

### ***Rose City Little League ~ \$2,000 for field upgrades***

With a great history in NE Portland, this league needed funding to better prepare their fields for their kids in the hopes their rich legacy will only grow and continue for years to come.

## ***FOB is all about building family traditions and lasting memories. . .***

In a recent presentation ceremony I shared some of the deeper values that inspired the birth of this organization. It's been suggested that our efforts are only directed toward helping the kids in our community of baseball and softball. While this is certainly one aspect of FOB, our trustees are much more consistently focused on ensuring that baseball continues to build family involvement, community traditions and the memories for all that will last a life time. This is what inspires us; this is what motivates us in each of our endeavors.

## ***Portland Beavers, Friends of Baseball Announce 2008***

### ***Coach and Volunteer Honorees***

Our two organizations recently completed deliberations on this year's annual award. We were contacted by many individuals and organizations, all with **Very Deserving Nominations**. Each of these nominations was inspiring, making it very difficult to choose

only one honoree for each award. While we ultimately had to choose, we truly believe that they represent the *entire* community of Coaches and Volunteers who give so selflessly so that indeed this game can be played each spring and summer.

**2008 Volunteer of the Year  
Todd Sonflieth ~ Putnam Youth Baseball Organization**

**2008 Coach of the Year  
Brian Yates ~ David Douglas Youth Baseball**

Todd and Brian will be honored along with all of our finalists at Youth Baseball Weekend at PGE Park Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. Each will also receive a check for \$1,000 prior to the game from the Beavers and FOB in their name, for use by their leagues. We hope you'll join in this celebration. If you have a group that wishes to attend, please contact Erin Andrews at the Beavers for group ticket information at 503-553-5404; she would love to help you out.

**Now. . . if you have read this far. . .**

Finally, I'm going to provide a bit of a tease. For weeks our trustees have been working on a new concept and opportunity to serve our baseball/softball community. If the stars are all aligned, this announcement will be made in the next week. Watch your email accounts and make sure friendsofbaseball.org is on your "most favored" list of email senders! You won't want to miss this new and innovative program - can you tell we're excited?

**Stay Tuned. . .**

Warm Regards,

*Keenan*

[Keenan@friendsofbaseball.org](mailto:Keenan@friendsofbaseball.org)

*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)*

**Should you wish to no longer receive this newsletter simply send an email to:  
[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**

**Friends of Baseball - 1631 N. E. Broadway #118, Portland, OR, 97232**

***Friendsofbaseball.org***