

## **Roberto Clemente's Name Still Helping the Less Fortunate**

June 13, 2006 Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. - More than three decades after Roberto Clemente died trying to bring aid to others, an effort to help Latin American children has been launched in his name.

The family of the late Hall of Famer and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum have created "Roberto's Kids" to collect new and lightly used baseball equipment for delivery to children in Latin America. While the primary beneficiaries of the program will be in Clemente's native Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, organizers hope to reach youngsters in Venezuela, Mexico and other Latin American countries.

The goal of Roberto's Kids is to continue the charitable work of Steve Pindar, of Oneonta, N.Y., and Steve Tremitiere, of Newtown, Pa. Each has collected tons of equipment for children in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico in recent years.

"The goal of Roberto's Kids is to collect and distribute equipment from baseball leagues, charitable organizations, individuals or retailers in the United States and Canada and provide that equipment to those in Latin American countries where baseball is loved and played with passion," Hall of Fame president Dale Petroskey said in press release.

Through Roberto's Kids, local organizations will be given the information they need to run a successful local collection. Equipment will be sent to a central facility for packaging and shipment.

Pindar started the Baseball Equipment Project in 1999 in the Dominican Republic with a single donation from the Oneonta Little League. In 2005, his family collected five tons of equipment for Dominican children from organizations across the country. Tremitiere has collected tons of equipment from eastern Pennsylvania and central New Jersey for the Roberto Clemente Sports City Complex and other organizations in Puerto Rico.

Clemente's died in a plane crash off the coast of Puerto Rico on New Year's Eve 1972 while he was trying to deliver relief supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. Though his family pleaded with him not to make the trip, Clemente insisted on going because previous supplies had not made it to the victims.

Clemente was 38 and his 18-year career with the Pittsburgh Pirates ended with exactly 3,000 hits.