

Pirates, Baseball Tomorrow Fund to host equipment collection

Equipment donations, Baseball Tomorrow Fund grant to support youth programs in Pittsburgh

June 3, 2008, , 11:30 a.m., Pittsburgh

In support of the ongoing commitment from Major League Baseball, its Clubs and the players to increase opportunities for youth participation in baseball and softball, the Pirates are teaming up with the Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) to host an equipment collection drive before the game on Saturday, June 7 when the Pirates take on the Arizona Diamondbacks at 7:05 p.m. at PNC Park. Fans are invited to donate new and used baseball equipment, which will benefit Roberto's Kids and the Braddock Area Athletic Association and its affiliated RBI baseball program. A designated collection site will be located on Federal Street where fans can bring their equipment donations up until the start of the game.

In conjunction with the equipment drive, the Baseball Tomorrow Fund will award a grant of \$2,500 each to Roberto's Kids and the Braddock Area Athletic Association for the purchase of new equipment. In recognition of the grant, Pirates President Frank Coonelly will present a ceremonial check to each organization during a pre-game ceremony. This marks the fourth year the Baseball Tomorrow Fund has teamed with Major League Baseball Clubs, including the Pirates, to supplement their existing equipment collection programs and to help facilitate the creation of new programs. In 2007, the Pirates collected and donated baseball equipment to the Brighton Heights Little League, who also received a \$5,000 grant from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund.

In total across the league, last season's Equipment Day initiative benefited 40 youth organizations and raised approximately \$185,000 in cash donations and almost 15,000 new and used equipment items.

"On behalf of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, I would like to thank the Pirates, their players and fans for participating in Equipment Day," says Cathy Bradley, Executive Director of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund. "Their contributions, both large and small, will provide countless children in the Pittsburgh community with the opportunity to play baseball and softball."

Roberto's Kids distributes new and used baseball equipment collected from baseball leagues, charitable organizations, individuals and retailers in the United States and Canada to disadvantaged children in Latin American countries. Presently, the program is focused in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

The Braddock Area Athletic Association is part of the Pittsburgh RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) program administered by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western

Pennsylvania. RBI helps boys and girls to learn the value of teamwork, develop self-esteem and achieve academically through participating in the game of baseball. Over 800 youth participate in Pittsburgh RBI annually.

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund is designed to promote and enhance the growth of baseball and softball throughout the world, by funding programs, field improvement and equipment purchases to encourage and maintain youth participation in baseball and softball. Since its inception in 1999, the Baseball Tomorrow Fund has awarded grants totaling more than \$12 million, benefiting nearly 150,000 youth participating in more than 320 youth baseball and softball programs across the U.S., Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Asia. For more information visit www.pirates.com/community or www.baseballtomorrowfund.com.

**BASEBALL
TOMORROW
FUND**

PNC PARK June 7, 2008

Beau Tremitiere
Roberto's Kids

Steve Tremitiere
Roberto's Kids

Andrew Paul
Peters Township High School

Damaso Marte
Pittsburgh Pirates Pitcher