

By Jim Leitner, TH sports editor

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Paul Scherrman has earned a promotion in his philanthropy.

The manager of the Farley Hawks semi-pro baseball team recently accepted the position of Midwest Regional Program Coordinator for Roberto's Kids. The organization, named after Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente, collects new and used baseball equipment and distributes it to disadvantaged children in Latin American countries. Its prime focus is the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

Scherrman, the vice president of J.P. Scherrman, Inc., has been collecting baseball equipment from his construction and agricultural equipment dealership in Farley for the past few years. This spring, Roberto's Kids founder Stephen Pindar asked Scherrman if he'd like to expand his role.

"I asked him what it would all entail, and he told me the position would be whatever I wanted to make of it," said Scherrman, one of only two regional coordinators in the United States. "This is something that's been right up my alley since I started doing it, so it was natural to take the next step. I really enjoy helping kids through the game of baseball.

"I would really like to get to the point where I can help them distribute everything they've collected to the kids. I'd love to see where everything is going and get a feel for just how much of an impact we're making."

A Roberto's Kids program coordinator assists individuals, groups and organizations in getting their collection drives off the ground.

Scherrman, who served in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1997-2002, also played for the Field of Dreams Ghost Team. The Ghost players traveled the world, entertaining crowds with clinics, comedy and competitive baseball.

For further information on Roberto's Kids, visit www.robertos-kids.org. To donate used equipment or uniforms locally, contact Scherrman during business hours at 563-744-3393.