



PRESS CONFERENCE - *BADGES FOR BASEBALL*

MONDAY, MAY 10TH - AT 4:30 P.M.

5:00 P.M. BASEBALL GAME (MEADE VILLAGE VS. ADMIRAL OAKS)

THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB AT BATES

121 SOUTH VILLA AVENUE, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation teams with Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office and Boys & Girls Clubs to provide *Badges for Baseball* for local youth

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation in partnership with Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler launched the 2010 Maryland *Badges for Baseball* program in nine Maryland jurisdictions including the Sheriff's Office of Anne Arundel County. Through this partnership the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation is providing the *Badges for Baseball* program for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BGCAA). *Badges for Baseball* provides youth opportunities to learn life lessons from law enforcement professionals serving as coaches and mentors while participating in baseball and softball themed activities. BGCAA will receive grant funding and resources to implement the program throughout 2010.

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, created *Badges for Baseball* as a crime prevention program designed to bring law enforcement professionals together with young people to play and learn in a safe, fun, and engaging program. *Badges for Baseball* serves as a positive outlet for youth during out-of-school hours when they are most likely to commit or become victims of crime. Participating youth will learn the basics of baseball/softball while participating in the Foundation's character development program, *Healthy Choices, Healthy Children*.

"The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation is thrilled to have the opportunity to team with the Sheriff's Office of Anne Arundel County and the Boys & Girls Clubs to provide this mentoring opportunity to help youth find a path to positive, productive citizenship. It's through great cooperative partnerships like this one that we can help to show youth a world of possibilities and help prevent the troubles associated with juvenile delinquency." Steve Salem, Executive Director of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation commented.

The *Badges for Baseball* program targets areas with high rates of juvenile crime and delinquency. These communities often struggle with strained relationships between youth and law enforcement professionals. Through active community partnerships, the program provides resources and opportunities for youth to participate and learn in a safe, caring environment.

In support of the 2010 *Badges for Baseball* program, the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and the Office of Attorney General Doug Gansler will provide:

- \$18,000 cash grants to 9 sites in Maryland
- \$2,800 baseball/softball and Quickball grants to 9 sites
- Healthy Choices, Healthy Children program material and on-going staff training
- "Ripken Way" baseball/softball clinics
- Opportunity for 27 youth and their mentors to travel to Aberdeen for CRSF Summer Camp

- More -

About the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation uses baseball and softball themed programs to help build character and teach critical life lessons to disadvantaged youth residing in America's most distressed communities. Founded in 2001 by members of the Ripken family in memory of their patriarch Cal, Sr., the Foundation works to create programs that positively impact disadvantaged youth through active community partnerships with America's most successful youth service organizations. www.ripkenfoundation.org

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (www.bgca.org) has helped kids BE GREAT providing hope and opportunity for those who need it most. Today, some 4,300 Clubs serve 4.5 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Boys & Girls Clubs can be found throughout the country and on U.S. military bases worldwide, providing young people 6-18 years old with guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. Clubs positively impact lives and help young people reach their full potential as productive, caring citizens. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County serve more than 8,000 youth a year and have five Club locations in Annapolis & Anne Arundel County. www.bgcaa.com.

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