

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS AWARD MORE THAN \$215,000
IN 3RD QUARTER *BASEBALL TOMORROW FUND* GRANTS TO SIX U.S. COMMUNITIES**

Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) today announced the awarding of third quarter grants totaling more than \$215,000 to six communities across the country, including: Gary, Indiana; Gonzales, Louisiana; Miami, Florida; Orlando, Florida; Portland, Maine; and Reidsville, Georgia. The Baseball Tomorrow Fund, a program formed by Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association, promotes the growth of youth baseball and softball throughout the world by awarding grants to support field renovation and construction projects, equipment and uniform purchases, coaches training material and other selected program expenses.



The Baseball Tomorrow Fund

Following are details for each community's BTF grant:

- **Northshore Amateur Sports Academy, Inc. (Gary, IN):** The grant will provide funding for equipment and player and coaches training material to support a learning and resource center, a groundskeeping academy for youth and coaches training and a college readiness program. Northshore Amateur Sports Academy, Inc. was established in 2005 to provide year-round educational and recreational opportunities in the community. The academy provides baseball and softball camps and clinics, an all-sport camp and workshops to more than 800 children.
- **Household of Faith Church, Inc. (Gonzales, LA):** The grant will provide funding to construct a new softball field and to develop the existing practice field into a regulation baseball field for use by local high school teams, the newly-created middle school teams and local travel teams. The Household of Faith Church operates four schools in the area serving children from early education through high school in Ascension Parish.
- **South Florida After School All-Stars (Miami, FL):** The grant will provide funding for the development of its first organized sports program, which will be a baseball league with partner M-E Baseball, a local recreational youth baseball league. The South Florida After School All-Stars program is the local chapter of a national program that provides year-round, school-based academic, enrichment and health programs to middle school students.
- **Orlando After-School All-Stars (Orlando, FL):** The grant will provide funding to increase the number of players in the summer and fall leagues of the organization's Youth Baseball Development

League, a free baseball program to middle school, at-risk children. The local chapter of a national program serves 1,600 children from Orlando middle schools.

- **Portland Bayside Little League (Portland, ME):** The grant will provide funding for improved coaches training and field conditions at Loring Field. The Portland Bayside Little League is one of three leagues serving the largest school system in the state of Maine. The league serves the downtown area, which is experiencing an influx of immigrant families, and it plans to increase participation in the program by targeted outreach to those families through a partnership with the local Police Athletic League and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.
- **Tattnall County High School (Reidsville, GA):** The grant will provide funding for an indoor baseball and softball training facility to serve the players involved with school teams, as well as programs provided by the parks and recreation departments in the communities of Reidsville and Glennville, Georgia. The facility will contain two retractable batting and pitching tunnels, eight soft-toss stations and an instructional area. Tattnall County High school is a consolidated school serving rural Reidsville and Glennville.

Since its formation by Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association in 1999, the Baseball Tomorrow Fund has awarded over 480 grants totaling more than \$18 million to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia. Approximately 214,009 youth players have benefited from programs and facilities supported by the Fund. The Baseball Tomorrow Fund receives approximately 500 applications each year and awards grants on a quarterly basis after a selective review process. For more information, visit www.baseballtomorrowfund.com.

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