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Leawood Teen Hits A Home Run For Area Youth

Baseball equipment will play extra innings for KCK RBI Program and kids throughout the world

Leawood, Kan. (November 15, 2010) — When Jaxson Dubinsky set out to honor the memory of a former baseball coach with an equipment drive to commemorate his 13th birthday, he never imagined he could help hundreds of kids fulfill their dreams. But a few months later, the teen found himself bound for Philadelphia, PA, in a truck filled with bats, gloves, and hundreds more pieces of baseball gear he collected for Pitch In For Baseball (PIFB), a non-profit organization that distributes baseball equipment to programs serving underprivileged kids throughout the United States and the world (www.pitchinforbaseball.org).

But only about half of the equipment made the trip east. The remaining equipment – nearly 500 items will stay in Kansas City with the KCK RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) program. “Many kids don’t have the resources available to play baseball,” said Cle Ross, Executive Director of the Kansas City chapter of Major League Baseball’s RBI program. “Jaxson’s donation will get a lot of kids off the streets and on the field.”

Dubinsky began the drive because he loves baseball and wanted to help kids. “I had a baseball coach who believed that every kid should be able to play baseball,” he said. “Unfortunately, he was taken from us prematurely in an accident, so I feel like I’m honoring him by giving more kids the tools they need to play ball.” Jaxson’s goal was to collect at least 500 pieces of equipment, and he achieved about double that goal.

PIFB distributes equipment all over the world, from the Philippines to Philly, but Dubinsky wanted to be sure the equipment he collected helped kids in his hometown of Kansas City. David Rhode, founder and Executive Director of PIFB, introduced Jaxson to Cle Ross, and Dubinsky split his donation.

When asked how this collection ranks with other donations received by PIFB, Rhode answered, “This is a donation we won’t soon forget! Jaxson’s donation sets a new standard in terms of the distance driven to make a donation.” The Dubinsky family, including Jaxson, his parents, his sister and his dog, drove 1200 miles from Leawood, Kan. to deliver the equipment to PIFB distribution center in Harleysville, Penn.

Dubinsky’s donation included 200 balls, 150 gloves, 150 pair of cleats, 100 bats, 40 equipment bags, 20 complete sets of catchers gear, dozens of pairs of baseball pants, caps, and other assorted accessories.

“This young man is setting an important example to his peers,” said Rhode. “This one-time collection is a significant accomplishment, but Jaxson has an opportunity to continue his service, whether it’s with us here at PIFB, the RBI program in Kansas City, or both.”

“I couldn’t have accomplished this success without the help of others,” said Dubinsky. “I have to thank Midwest Sports Productions for letting me collect equipment at the Monster Bash baseball tournament, and Bobby Hennessey at Honda of Tiffany Springs for letting us borrow the truck to drive to Pennsylvania.”

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For more information on organizations mentioned in this release visit www.pitchinforbaseball.org and www.kckrbi.org