



Ft. Wayne RBI

September 1, 2010

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Ft. Wayne RBI Completes its Pilot Summer Season

The leadership of the World Baseball Academy has been anticipating the summer of 2010 for some time. "Inner-city outreach was always a part of our master plan," says Executive Director Caleb Kimmel. "To see this pilot season off and running, and seeing the impact we are capable of having on kids is encouraging."

Young men from the Boys and Girls club came to the ASH Centre 3 times per week for practices and game play. Many of them had little or no previous baseball experience. It wasn't all baseball all the time, however, many of the participants mentioned learning valuable lessons that will help them off the field. Steven Shiftlett, a 13 year old Shawnee Middle School student who's goal is to be in the military one day, says not only did he enjoy learning to play the game but, "I have learned to be a better leader and how to work together."

It's certainly no stretch to say that those skills will help him in a career in the military, and that is the program's design. "If this was just about baseball, we would have no interest in pursuing it," says Matt Harmon, the Program's Director. "But preparing kids for real life and teaching them how to become leaders, makes RBI an important and fun challenge."

RBI Mentor Heads Service Project

Bishop Dwenger High School student Brian Downing is no stranger to helping out. He is involved with officiating youth hockey, involved heavily with Scouting, and this summer was a high school mentor for the RBI Program.

His service is not limited, however, to helping kids outside his home. His parents have served as foster parents to numerous kids in our community. Brian is the oldest of the Downing kids, and is counted on to lend a helping hand around the house.

It comes as no surprise that Brian has used his numerous connections, and come up with a unique service plan to help the RBI Program. He is completing his Eagle Scout merit by helping coordinate inner-city Boy Scouts, his own troop, and RBI players to help revamp the dugouts at the ASH Centre (home of the RBI program).

"RBI is a great program that serves some great kids. I was excited to use my Eagle Scout project to be able to keep helping out RBI," explains Brian Downing.

INFORMATION WE SHOULD KNOW:

Rates of participation in physical activity have declined in the past 30 years for both children and youth. Boys between the ages of 6 and 18 have decreased in participation in physical activities by 24% while girls decreased participation by 36% between these same ages.

RBI wants to help change that trend and make a difference in the lives of our next generation of leaders!

RBI Needs: used equipment (especially gloves), promotional opportunities, service projects, service project volunteers, and auction items for March 2011 fundraiser.

CONTACT: Matt Harmon, RBI Director

Fort Wayne RBI * 1701 Freeman St * Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 750-4696 (Mobile) * (260) 436-1507 (Fax)

matt@worldbaseballacademy.com

www.worldbaseballacademy.com

In Their Own Words:

Players say lessons learned

this summer will help them later on.

The summer had lots of talks about hitting, catching, and throwing. But there was also a lot of discussion about life after baseball.

"I learned how the people that are around you today shape you into the person you will become in the future," said 13 year old Quinton Hall.

Heritage Jr. High student Joseph Lewis said RBI taught "teamwork", while Shawnee middle-schooler Lionel Weaver said he learned to "never give up."

Maybe Imagine student, Scott Dominguez, summed it up best saying, "They teach you stuff that will help you in life."

PLAYER QUOTE:

"RBI has taught me how to be a leader and to do the right things."

-Joseph Dennis

*RBI's Joseph Smith receives his "Mental Attitude" award



MISSION: The Fort Wayne RBI mission is to use the game of baseball to provide leadership development and life skills training, break down cross-cultural barriers, and model strong family units for at-risk athletes; the program seeks to develop future community and family leaders who give back to the community and seek to serve others.