

The FirstSwing Foundation

P.O. Box 497
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PRESS RELEASE

●Immediate Release●

TO: Local and Regional Media
FROM: Phil Rognier, Executive Director
RE: FirstSwing Update
DATE: September 1, 2008

The **FirstSwing** Foundation is proud to announce the dissemination of close to three million dollars to physically and financially-challenged youth and organizations in the past six years. The mission of **FirstSwing** is to *empower* young athletes and students in order that they may actively participate and grow within conventional guidelines. Monies, equipment, and leadership have been provided by **FirstSwing** to proactively support these youngsters, their schools, teams, coaches, and programs. The Foundation has expanded to Portugal, Viet Nam, and other countries with a youth exchange program and travelling clinics.

Beginning in 2002, **FirstSwing** began to support various Seattle and King County Christmas and holiday programs. Donations to auctions, independent organizations, individual children, and countywide drives were provided to *empower* youngsters the opportunity to celebrate the holiday spirit and start the New Year with positive motivation. **FirstSwing** has cooperated with the KIRO Foster Child holiday Magic Program and the KCPQ Holiday for Kids Program to provide sports equipment, games and instructional materials. The Forgotten Children Fund and Toys for Tots (with the US Marine Corps) are two other groups who have received substantial support. The biggest concentration in the past year has been to work with the local service groups and provide assistance to the Children's Hospital, Seattle and Everett Parks and Recreation, the Miracle League, and local youth baseball/softball teams and programs. The past six summers, **FirstSwing** has sponsored and operated its unique camp concept, "Baseball/Softball...it's more than a game!" These camps teach the fundamental skills, techniques, and fluency of the sport(s) as well as focusing on FUN and "life's little lessons" learned within the sport. Many different aspects of life are covered to include financial literacy, visual acuity, reading, nutritional values, manners, goal setting, problem solving, value of the work ethic, conditioning exercises, leadership, as well as the enjoyment of competing and playing! Furthermore, **FirstSwing** provides educational clinics and seminars for youth coaches, parents, leagues, teams, etc. in order to insure proper instruction and leadership for youth sports. Our certified personnel teach the techniques, ethics, and procedures needed to be a *positive* role model and proficient and versatile coach. Love is spelled T-I-M-E! **GAGPTH!**

Listed below are many of the organizations and programs **FirstSwing** has supported and is assisting:

Local Boys and Girls Clubs
Rotary and Kiwanis
Juvenile Diabetes Auction
The Jamie Moyer Foundation
Junior Baseball: Little League, AAU Softball, etc.
The Seahawk Holiday for Kids
Cure Autism Now
Special Olympics
Jay Buhner Auction
The Children's Hospital Guild
Youth baseball in Portugal
Friends of Youth
Seattle Detention Center
Children's Home
The Kindering Center
Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Youth Groups

The Miracle League
Ronald McDonald House and Auction
The Coaches' Club
Portuguese Baseball Federation
Seattle Mariner Fan Fest and Mariner Care
The Forgotten Children Fund
Toys for Tots
Children's Holiday Campaign
Make a Wish
EBC Mentoring Program
Harlem youth teams
Disabled Youth
Wheelchair Games
Teen Life Center
White House Little League Program
"Pitch, Hit, and Run"/Olympic Skills Challenge

Many disadvantaged individual athletes ,schools ,teams, and families.

First Swing looks forward to another successful year of providing monies, programs, and equipment to those less fortunate and we appreciate your support! Please call Coach Phil at 425-451-8276 to find out how YOU can be an *active* part of **FirstSwing**.

"Baseball may not change the world, BUT it can change a youngster's life!"

