

Mikail R. Russo
(More Opportunities for NEighborhood Youth)
MONEY Athletic Foundation
2002 Annual Newsletter

First Annual Fundraiser is a Hit!

The first annual MONEY Athletic Foundation Home Run Derby and Red Sox Raffle, held on June 2, 2002 at the Rockport Recreation Field, was a huge success due to the many participants and sponsors.

Players from Camden Hills, Rockland, Belfast, and Georges Valley high schools competed for team and individual honors in memory of Camden Hills' student-athlete Mikail R. Russo. In addition, 32 area adults took cuts to help the cause.

The leading raffle ticket salesman was Nate Clark, a Camden Hills player from Lincolnville. For his outstanding efforts he earned four box seats at Fenway Park for a Red Sox/Braves game (donated by Rick Bresnihan). Second in sales was Nick Arthers of Belfast, earning a \$100 gift certificate to Coastal Athletics of Portland.

Batters received two points for each home run that cleared the regulation fence, and one point for those that cleared the closer temporary fence erected for the event.

In the high school division, Camden Hills won the team title with 17 points. Belfast finished second with 12, Rockland third with 11, and Georges Valley fourth with eight. In recognition of their victory, the Camden Hills

Williams Box Seats at the July 4th Portland Seadog's game (courtesy of Micucci Wholesale Grocery in Portland).

Each high school was represented in the second round of individual competition. Rockland's Parker Tootill won the event by hitting seven home runs in the final round. Brady Butler, presently a senior at



Camden Hills, was the runner-up with four blasts.

Liz Dailey of Rockport won the raffle's grand prize, four seats in the 600 Club and watched the Sox and Blue Jays on July 4th (MBNA donation).

With the inclusion of raffle ticket sales, food sales at the event, donations, and T-shirt proceeds, the Foundation raised \$7,500.

The Derby was a success because it did what it had set out to do: it involved kids having fun. President, Keagan Russo, summed up the day best as he walked off the field, "A lot of great people turned out today in memory of a great person."

www.monevathleticfoundation.org

Second and Third Round of Grants Awarded

The Mikail R. Russo (More Opportunities for NEighborhood Youth) MONEY Athletic Foundation is pleased to announce its second and third quarter grant recipients. The Foundation is proud to report that 100% of applicants' sport education expenses were met.

Second quarter honorees include Noah Burke, Ben Felton, Samantha Wiley, Jared Mitchell, T.C. Dickens, Michael Crockett, Marshall Crockett, Deanna Harrison, Desiree Munro, and Trevor Paul. The third quarter award recipients were Philip Curll, Anna Wind, Marcus Benjamin, Tyler Bowen, Brian Cross, Zachary Fields, Courtney Russo, Camden Area Youth Soccer, and Camden Area 8th Grade Girls Travel Basketball.

The awards were sent directly to the activity the athletes desired to attend. They included USM Baseball Camp, Pine Tree Basketball Camp, AAU Basketball, Dutch Soccer Academy, Goose River Golf Club, NCA Cheerleading Camp, Ed Walsh's Elite Hockey Camp, UMaine Field Hockey Camp, Flying B. Ranch, and Windjammer Hoop Camp.

Once again, the pleasure of assisting these fine youth is the Foundation's reason for being.

May your holiday season be filled with warmth, love, and good cheer!

MONEY in the News

The MONEY Athletic Foundation has been in the local news quite a few times in the recent months. The local newspaper, *The Camden Herald*, and the local website news, *Village Soup*, both carried articles about the Homerun Derby. The Herald also runs articles about grant recipients.

The Foundation's website creator, Gabe Gates, was recently highlighted in *The Camden Herald*. Gabe, a close friend to Mikail, created and upkeep the Foundation's website. It has been a labor of love and the outcome is one he can be extremely proud of.

Gabe is presently a senior at Camden Hills Regional High School. He, along with fellow student Ben Fisher, has opened his own web design service called EKO Designs.

In addition, the work the Foundation accomplishes and a retrospective of Mikail's life was highlighted on the front page of the August 23rd edition of the *Herald*.

If you would like to view any these articles and others, they can be obtained via the internet in the archives of www.camdenherald.com and www.villagesoup.com. The Foundation is also listed with guidestar.org.

Proud, New Member of UMCC

The United Mid-Coast Charities, an organization supplementing the needs of many charitable associations, has elected to welcome the MONEY Athletic Foundation into its ranks.

UMCC began in 1942 and works as a distributor to 60 local organizations. Their mission is to locate charities that offer the "most possible benefit to residents in and around the Mid-Coast area." The United Mid-Coast Charities is committed to screening and evaluating each local charity it chooses to represent. This is why being chosen as one of the groups they foster is an honor we, at the Foundation, accept with great pride.



Thanks from MONEY and the Kids You Helped Support!

The Board of Directors of the MONEY Athletic Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have allowed this charity to get off the ground. We are extremely pleased with the success this endeavor has afforded the organization and the youth of the community in Mikail's memory.

The following are excerpts from the many thank you letters we have received from recipients of assistance that you, our donors, have supported.

Anna Wind: I am extremely grateful to the MONEY Athletic Foundation for the generous gift of a scholarship to me. I am pleased to honor Mikail Russo's memory in this way. I feel that going to this field hockey camp is a great opportunity for me and that I will get a lot out of it.

Coach Stammen, Windjammer Basketball:
Thank you for helping Zachary Fields attend our Windjammer Basketball Camp this summer. Your support is very much appreciated and a blessing to the many who receive your gifts.

Noah Burke: *I really thank you for awarding me this scholarship. I really love baseball and I hope to improve on my skills. It's really good that you are giving kids that don't have the financial resources to participate. If I ever make MLB I will be sure to give money to donations around the world.*

PLEASE HELP LOCAL YOUTH SUCCEED

Our new address is:

MONEY Athletic Foundation

50 Bull Hill Rd.

Hope, ME 04847

www.moneyathleticfoundation.org