

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

2003 A Year of Growth

A glimpse back over the year elicits great joy due to the tremendous growth of the Foundation. Through your help, we doubled the number of children funded and more than doubled the amount of capital expended.

This year MONEY assisted 41 children and 3 sport teams. This is in contrast to the year before, when the Foundation sponsored 22 children and 3 sport teams. In order to do this, the Foundation sent \$18,809.75 to camps, tournaments, and organizations. The total for 2002 was \$6,939.

The sponsored athletic endeavors included soccer, basketball, horseback riding, tennis, baseball, hockey, golf, cheerleading, and rock climbing. The athletes helped included local boys and girls, some physically gifted and some who required the activity because of their special needs.

As always, we base the scholarships on financial necessity, thus enabling the Foundation to send athletes near and far. This year we helped send a deserving athlete who had worked hard to raise most of the money to travel to Europe to play soccer. We

also assisted a young man in attending Outward Bound in North Carolina. He wrote, "I am writing this letter to express my extreme gratitude towards you and your organization. I had a really good time and I learned many things about rock climbing on the course. However, I also learned a lot about myself. I learned that I can push myself way outside my comfort zone and take risks. The other thing I learned about was leadership, and being self supporting and self-reliant. I learned that there are many different types of leadership styles, and that all of them are okay. We all learned that you need the right balance of different people to make things work right. Thank you."



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Through your generosity, the Foundation assisted those in need closer to home as well. Two young children without the basketball sneakers essential to compete on a local team traveled to Rock Coast Sport to purchase them. In addition, a young girl abandoned by her family, and placed in a group home was able to acquire the required clothing to participate in horse dressage.

Team sports also benefited from your consideration. This year, MONEY sponsored a Camden area 6th grade boys travel basketball team made up of ten youngsters who did not make the first team. The Foundation continued to aid Camden Youth Soccer with the purchase of equipment and supported the Maine Blizzards (a girls AAU basketball team) participation in a national tournament.

The ages of athletes ranged from 8 to 18 and came predominantly from Knox and Waldo County. With your help, the More Opportunities for NEighborhood Youth Athletic Foundation would like to make next year even more successful. We plan to continue our Home Run Derby Fundraiser in the spring, but with the increase in applicants, it alone cannot sustain the need. More on the Derby on page two.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP LOCAL YOUTH SUCCEED

The address to send your tax-deductible dollars to is:

MONEY Athletic Foundation

50 Bull Hill Rd.

Hope, ME 04847

www.moneyathleticfoundation.org

The Second Annual Home Run Derby

Despite the foggy, wet weather and the need to postpone the event for a week, the Second Annual Home Run Derby held at the Rockport Recreation Field was a success.

The numbers were down for the high school participants due to the postponement and conflicts with graduation, but those able to participate blistered the ball through the fog.

Sixteen athletes from five midcoast schools participated. Each of these young men sold over ten raffle tickets for the honor of participating. Players received one point for a fair ball hit over a temporary short fence, and two points for a ball that cleared the regular fence. Participants from Rockland District High School were the big hitters for the day. They won the team event and individual honors. After a third round tiebreaker between teammates Wade Oliver and Jon Dean, the title went to Oliver.

An adult open followed the high school competition and 32 guys and gals, after donating to the Foundation, took their cuts. The Viking Lumber softball team rallied their players to compete among themselves with the proceeds going to the cause.

After the completion of the competition, the drawings for prizes ensued. The grand prizewinner of four Red Sox 406 Club tickets went to Mikail's former teammate, Taylor Benzie. It was especially touching because Taylor attended his first Red Sox game with Mikail on Mikail's 16th birthday.

Due to a smaller turnout, the sale of raffle tickets and the events of the day raised less than the previous year. The total was just over \$5000.

Gift certificates, tickets to sporting events, and sponsorship of the event would not have been possible without the generosity of the following: Party Fundamentals; MBNA America; the Samoset Resort; Goose River Golf Club; Fitzpatrick's Deli Café; Viking Inc.; Lezly Graphics; Micucci Wholesale Foods; Rick Bresnahan; Camden Custom Embroidery; French & Brawn; Peter Henderson; the Schooner Lazy Jack; the Weathervane Restaurant; the Whale's Tooth Pub; the Camden House of Pizza; Maine Gold; Wight's Sporting Goods; Clear Channel Broadcasting, especially Don Shields; author and illustrator, Chris VanDusen; the Camden River House Hotel; Courier Publications, especially Joe Cyr; the Rockport Recreation Committee; Village Soup, especially Dan O'Connell; Ingraham's on Richards Hill; Wayfarer Marine Corp.; The Waterfront Restaurant; Peter Ott's Restaurant; Lily, Lupine, & Fern Emporium; Allen / VanAlstine Financial Group; Coffin Engineering; Maine Coast Construction; Prock Marine Co.; Portland Sea Dogs; Camden Irving; Sportnuts; Great Eastern Mussels; Bagel Café; the Youngtown Inn; Gilbert's Publick House; P.G. Willey; Home Sellers ERA; Penobscot Bay YMCA; Bayview Lobster Restaurant; Scott's Place; John Russo; Rock Coast Sports; North Center Food Services; Sysco; Pepsi; Patrick Annis; Brad Scott; Gordon Best; Harbor Audio Video; Mistral Mediterranean

Restaurant; Country Kitchen; Jessie's Pies; and Mr. Paperback.

In addition, sincere thanks must be directed to the many community members who attended the event, regardless of the weather, and lent a helping hand. The tasks involved included field preparation, announcing, food prep and sales, pitching, and clean up. The event would not have been successful without their spirit of generosity.

Closing Comments from the Kids

"I wanted to thank you for your donation allowing me to go to field hockey camp. I had a great experience and a lot of fun at Hebron Academy. I look forward to putting my new field hockey skills into motion this season. There was a total of 30 girls at camp, so I was able to get a lot of one on one time with the counselors. I was able to get to know everyone and I even got closer to three of my teammates. Again I thank you for your wonderful donation to help make me a better athlete."

Jenna

"I had a great time at the Thomas College Soccer Camp. I won 3 out of 4 medals. Thank you for the scholarship that made it possible."

Henry

"Thank-you so much for giving me a scholarship from the MONEY Foundation to help me attend this summer's U-Maine baseball camp. I now have a great opportunity that I wouldn't have had without your help."

Michael

May your New Year be filled with warmth, love, and kindness!