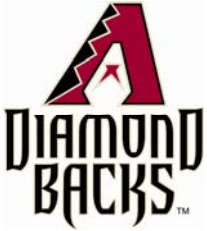


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Arizona Diamondbacks – Bruce Petillo – Gilbert, AZ

At age 4, Bruce Petillo's son was diagnosed with epilepsy. Understanding the financial challenges of caring for a seriously ill child, Bruce started the Fans Across America Charitable Foundation to help other families. In a time of need, the foundation helps offset everyday living expenses so parents can focus on their child's health. Fansacrossamerica.org



Atlanta Braves – Ryan Housley – Tyrone, GA

Inspired by conversations with his younger brother Evan, deployed in Iraq, Ryan Housley started HeroBox to support soldiers in combat. The nonprofit organization supplies packages customized to a soldier's specific needs. Demand grew quickly, and Ryan now works full time to fulfill requests so that every soldier feels appreciated.



Baltimore Orioles – Frank Kolarek – Baltimore, MD

Frank started League of Dreams for children with mental and physical disabilities. His foundation enables kids to play baseball and softball in a safe and loving environment, and gives them an opportunity to feel like big leaguers.



Boston Red Sox – Rob Dixon – Brockton, MA

Rob works to transform at-risk youth into serious students. He founded the non-profit Project RISE to give these children the skills and motivation to succeed. Many at Project RISE are referred by probation officers. Amazingly, 90 percent of participants graduate from high school and 146 students have attended college.



Chicago Cubs – Erin Leyden – Chicago, IL

Erin started a foundation to help families who have children suffering from epilepsy. She offers support by listening to their struggles and calming their fears. Erin's foundation is educating the public about epilepsy and seizure first aid while working to eliminate the stigma and dispel myths surrounding epilepsy.



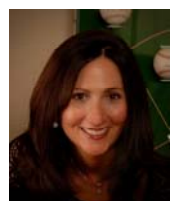
Chicago White Sox – Joe Schmitz – Morris, IL

Joe Schmitz transforms his passion for baseball into generosity. He is the founder of Operation St. Nick, an organization that has donated over \$1 million to 3,700 families in Morris, IL. With fundraising bus trips to Chicago White Sox games and an impressive baseball collection, Joe helps families in need every day.



Cincinnati Reds – Sherri J. Friedman – Cincinnati, OH

Sherri understands the magic that comes from exposing kids to live sports and cultural events. She founded and runs Most Valuable Kids of Greater Cincinnati, an organization that distributes unused tickets to underserved children. Sherri has helped 22,000 kids experience these events, including more than 4,800 tickets to Cincinnati Reds games.





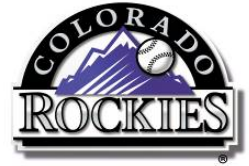
Cleveland Indians – Dr. Michael Konstan – Bratenahl, OH

Dr. Konstan has focused his life's work on cystic fibrosis and those with the disease. Due to his research and leadership, the life expectancy of CF patients has nearly doubled. His care and compassion have brought comfort and hope to his patients and their families.



Colorado Rockies – Darrell Scott – Littleton, CO

His daughter was the first person killed at Columbine High School in April 1999. Darrell launched the nonprofit Rachel's Challenge to spread her message of good will and compassion. By sharing Rachel's story and inviting students to "start a chain reaction" of kindness, Darrell has helped change lives and prevent suicides.



Detroit Tigers – Kathleen Brooks – Sterling Heights, MI

Kathleen Brooks has worked tirelessly to recruit bone marrow donors for the Be The Match Registry. As the coordinator for the Southeast Michigan District of the United States Postal Service, Kate has secured more than 1,000 potential donors under the USPS Delivering the Gift of Life Campaign.



Florida Marlins – Kristen Malfara – Melbourne Beach, FL

When her son was diagnosed with leukodystrophy, Kristen resolved to help other families in her situation. She founded the M.O.R.G.A.N. Project to support parents caring for their special-needs children with information, equipment and small grants, and to enhance the quality of life for these families.



Houston Astros – Gary Lynn – Houston, TX

Gary has cerebral palsy and is wheelchair bound. Refusing to be defined by his disability, today he is a straight-A student at Spring High School in Houston. In addition, he has his own foundation, which has raised and donated \$12,000 for CP research.



Kansas City Royals – John Lair – Pittsburg, KS

In 2001, John started a Special Olympics team for people with Developmental Disabilities. Today, it has grown to be the best in Kansas. John volunteers over 600 hours of his time a year to Special Olympics and has coached three World Champion Special Olympians.



Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim – Christine Shively – Newport Beach, CA

Since 2007, Christine Shively has brightened the lives of more than 20,000 strangers suffering from the ravages of cancer. Through her organization, Knots-of-Love, she crochets cancer caps and sends them to 140 cancer centers around the US, Canada and Mexico, providing warmth and TLC in a time of need.



Los Angeles Dodgers – Barbara Palilis – Los Angeles, CA

Being a teen is hard enough, but teens with special needs struggle more than most. Luckily, Barbara Palilis founded Circle of Friends, a social language skills program for teens and young adults with disabilities. Each teen partners with a non-disabled peer so everyone can learn life skills of understanding and acceptance.





Milwaukee Brewers – Loyal Mehnert – Milwaukee, WI

Loyal Mehnert takes an adventurous approach to fundraising. His “Everyday Journeyman Project” began with January’s 4,200-mile Plymouth-Dakar charity rally. It continues with a 2,175-mile solo hike from Georgia to Maine on the Appalachian Trail. All money raised will be donated to assist Habitat for Humanity’s Hurricane Katrina rebuilding efforts.



Minnesota Twins – Marylou Krest – Lima, NY

Marylou and her husband have spent years collecting school supplies, used little league equipment and uniforms and donating them to the children of the Dominican Republic. With a \$100,000 school building project underway, they are now looking for another project in the Caribbean.



New York Mets – Tara Suri – Scarsdale, NY

Tara was galvanized by the sexism she encountered in India at 13. She founded Turn Your World Around to engage young people in initiatives ranging from empowering sex trafficking victims to increasing access to education. She has impacted thousands globally and is dedicated to forging a movement of youth creating change. Turnyourworldaround.org



New York Yankees – Michael and Christina Pesci – Parsippany, NJ

Siblings Christina and Michael share more than a family: they’re both committed activists. Christina is president of Bridging the Generation Gap, an outreach club encouraging friendship between young people and seniors. Michael founded the nonprofit Perfect Pitch, which has raised \$175,000 for mentally and physically handicapped children and young adults.



Oakland Athletics – Duane Silverstein – Albany, CA

Duane’s organization, Seacology, finds win-win environmental solutions. It has built 85 schools and established over 35 scholarship programs benefiting indigenous peoples around the world. In exchange, they have preserved over two million acres of threatened forests and coral reefs. The rock group Daughtry featured Duane in a music video about unsung heroes.



Philadelphia Phillies – Brad Hennefer – Cherry Hill, NJ

Brad Hennefer is the only person with Down Syndrome in his high school Hall of Fame. He started the Golf For Life Foundation to introduce Down Syndrome individuals to the game of golf. Started locally, Brad’s foundation has grown into an outstanding national program. Golfforallife.org



Pittsburgh Pirates – Matt Kuntz – Helena, MT

Matt Kuntz’s stepbrother Chris committed suicide in 2007 after returning from Iraq with undiagnosed Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Matt made it his mission to ensure that all National Guard Troops in his home state of Montana receive adequate PTSD screening. He continues to campaign for PTSD awareness and screening for all veterans.



San Diego Padres – Richard Nares – San Diego, CA

Richard Nares started the Emilio Nares Foundation after his young son died of cancer. Its Ride With Emilio program transports sick children to their weekly cancer treatments and medical appointments when their families lack access to transportation. For families coping with a child’s illness, it’s a vitally important service.





San Francisco Giants – Kendra Robins – San Francisco, CA

Kendra is the founder of Project Night Night, which helps homeless children “one sweet dream at a time.” It donates tote bags filled with childhood essentials: a security blanket, a book and a stuffed animal. The Night Night packages comfort young children in homeless shelters and promote their emotional and cognitive well-being. ProjectNightNight.org



St. Louis Cardinals – Julieann Najar– St. Louis, MO

Julieann started sending packages to troops in 1968 during the Vietnam War. In that same spirit, she started A Soldier’s Wish List in 2004. It conducts fundraisers and collects donations to finance care packages for soldiers overseas. Julie’s organization also coordinates an “adoption” program, matching soldiers with volunteers who send them packages.



Seattle Mariners – Leo McCarthy – Butte, MT

Leo McCarthy’s activism stems from a tragic incident. In 2007, his teenage daughter Mariah was struck and killed by an underage drunk driver as she walked home. Leo started Mariah’s Challenge to keep teens from drinking—and to promote responsible behavior by adults. mariahschallenge.com



Tampa Bay Rays – Tommy Timberlake – Tampa, FL

Tommy makes it possible for disabled people to experience the joy of sailing in a safe, supportive environment. A qualified instructor, Tommy has spent hundreds of hours teaching sailing to individuals with physical and mental disabilities, including paraplegia, autism and Down syndrome. He takes sailors age 16-70 to local regattas.



Texas Rangers – Ben Sater – Plano, TX

Ben Sater was a visionary by the age of 10. He applied that vision to create KidSwing, a benefit golf tournament for children. Now in its seventh year, it has helped raise \$660,000 for the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, where Ben was once a patient.



Toronto Blue Jays – Melanie Burton – Belleville, ON

At age five, Melanie helped send thousands of Christmas shoeboxes to war-torn countries. Now she runs Reading Rocks, a program that encourages children with reading difficulties to love reading and improve their literacy. Melanie does most of her own fundraising and has helped children read thousands of books.



Washington Nationals – Dr. John Glaspy – Northridge, CA

Oncologist and UCLA Professor of Medicine John Glaspy pushes the boundaries of his role. A strong voice for patients, he speaks out to dispel the social isolation that affects cancer patients and their families. Dr. Glaspy believes we will soon win the battle against cancer, and he is helping to make that happen. His ideas inspired Stand Up to Cancer, a program of the Entertainment Industry Foundation that awards grants to researchers who could change the face of cancer treatment.

