



Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation

News Release

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INAUGURAL OHSAA FOUNDATION SERVICE WEEK GENERATES NEARLY \$250,000 FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Columbus, Ohio – The Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation is pleased to announce the results of their new statewide community service initiative. The inaugural **“OHSAA Foundation Service Week”** took place across the state Friday, November 21 through Saturday, December 5, 2008. Service Week provided an opportunity for OHSAA member schools to participate in a community service project(s), as well as a platform to highlight the community service activities schools already participate in throughout the year. Service Weeks are highlighted by **“Foundation Games,”** where participating schools were permitted to use one of the five allotted basketball scrimmages to play a live game under all normal game conditions, although the scrimmage did not count on a team’s record.

Over 250 high schools participated in 136 events across the state (nearly all of which included multiple games totaling over 280). The 44,000+ fans assisted in generating nearly **\$250,000** for charitable organizations and causes across the state, including the OHSAA Foundation. Contributions to the OHSAA Foundation are returned to all OHSAA member schools in the form of scholarships, leadership conferences and educational materials for student-athletes in all sports. The OHSAA Foundation annually awards \$30,000 in scholarships and hosts six leadership conferences at no cost to member schools.

The response from participating schools was overwhelmingly positive. “I think it is a great opportunity for the kids to recognize the value in doing something for others,” stated Brook Cupps, Athletic Director and Head Boys Basketball Coach at Graham High School. Of the nearly \$250,000 generated, over \$177,000 went to charitable organizations and causes across the state. OHSAA member schools raised money for a wide variety of charities including the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Autism Society of America, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Meals on Wheels, Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Transplant Assistance Fund, Ronald McDonald House, Salvation Army, Special Olympics, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, Susan G. Komen Foundation and United Way, amongst a number of other local non-profit

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organizations. In addition, Ohio student-athletes actively performed service in their communities such as working in local food pantries, reading programs with elementary school students, mentoring programs, visiting nursing homes / senior centers during the holidays, delivering gifts to underprivileged children and community clean-ups.

Beyond the dollars raised, Ohio schools collected clothing, books, eyeglasses, toys and approximately 30,000 lbs. of food for food banks across the state. Also, making valuable contributions were over 340 licensed OHSAA basketball officials who donated their time to officiate many of the events, thereby allowing the schools to contribute that much more to their selected cause. OHSAA Commissioner Dan Ross said, "We are very proud of all our officials and have been overwhelmed by the number of basketball officials that were so willing to give their time to help support such important causes across the state."

"We would like to congratulate our participating schools, who have exceeded our expectations for the inaugural event and we look forward to its continued growth in the future," stated OHSAA Foundation Board of Trustees member and originator of the Foundation Game, Bill Hosket. Dates for the 2009 OHSAA Foundation Service Week have been confirmed for Wednesday, November 18 through Saturday, December 5, 2009.

— OHSAA FOUNDATION —