



Stay in Softball

STAY IN SOFTBALL 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

Thanks to the support of softball players, parents and other generous donors and because of the dedication, time and hard work of many players, coaches and softball enthusiasts, Stay in Softball was able to accomplish the charitable activities outlined in this newsletter this past year.



SIS TEAMS UP WITH CLEVELAND CITY SOFTBALL PROGRAMS

During the spring, Stay in Softball held several free clinics for the Cleveland Baseball Federation, Cleveland Rec. Dept. and Cleveland Tri League teams. We also held a free clinic for a high school team that was rebuilding after not having a team for years. Over the course of three weeks, we provided clinics for girls on 8 different teams.

We were lucky enough to have Coach Bob Hoiles, (Asst. Coach Beverly Bandits DeMarini) lead two of those clinics. The focus of these clinics was defensive skills. Coach Hoiles reviewed the fundamentals of throwing, catching and fielding. Many of the players had never been taught correct fundamentals and Coach Hoiles patiently, yet enthusiastically, explained correct techniques and also explained why those techniques worked. The girls made amazing progress over the course of the clinics. Many of the volunteer coaches for the teams also attended the clinics and were able to learn alongside the players and also ask Coach Hoiles questions during the clinic.

In addition to Coach Hoiles, we were also excited and honored to have four current Akron Racers lead free clinics. Sherrie Robinson, Alison Owen, Sam Fischer and Ashley Thomas led both offensive and defensive clinics. The clinics covered softball skills including throwing, fielding, hitting, bunting, and base running. The players also assisted girls who were trying out for the Cleveland Indians' RBI program with

their tryout skills. The Racers players were great with the girls and the girls were excited to be taught by professional players! In addition to the skills instruction, the Racers also talked to the girls about how to be a good teammate, how to practice with a purpose and how to set goals (both in softball and in life). After the clinics, the players also stayed and signed autographs and took pictures with the girls and their coaches.

Equipment Donations: In addition to providing the free clinics, we supplied free bats, gloves, masks, helmets, balls and catching equipment for every player who needed them. We gave approximately 150 pieces of equipment out. The used equipment donation program is an essential part of our clinics because players need to practice the skills they learn on a regular basis with their own equipment. We can't thank our used equipment donors enough!



FREE SOFTBALL CLINICS

SIS provides free clinics in order to help rec level and inner-city or underserved players learn correct softball skills. The free clinics also provide ongoing training for coaches and players who do not have access to or can not afford training and training facilities. SIS clinics are instructed by elite private instructors and elite travel team coaches. We strive to utilize the best instructors in the area so the instruction provided is technically correct and taught at an appropriate level for the players involved. Recreational level, grade school and CYO coaches are always invited and encouraged to attend our clinics so they can learn along side their players. Coaches attending are provided with follow up materials to help assist them with their development as a coach. At all of our clinics we also bring a large assortment of used equipment collected at our equipment drives. We provide free equipment to every player who comes to our clinics and does not have equipment. Facemasks, in particular, are an item that many younger players do not have but need. We have provided over 50 new and used facemasks to players.

CLEVELAND CLINICS

Stay in Softball held several clinics in the Cleveland area over the spring and summer. These clinics include clinics for Tri League and Cleveland Baseball Federation teams as well as community recreational softball players including those from South Euclid, Willoughby, Eastlake, Mentor, Cleveland, Bedford, and Chagrin Valley and CYO players. Through these clinics we provided instruction for over 100 girls.

WARREN CLINIC

SIS held its largest free clinic for

girls age 8-12 on July 26th at Candlelite Knolls in Warren. Over 60 girls attended and received training from a great group of coaches including Bob Hoiles, (Beverly Bandits), Brian Grace and Jerry McDonough (Valley Extreme), Tony Hudson (Ohio SlamForce) and Dave Flickinger. The coaches held sessions on fielding (infield, outfield, throwing) hitting and base running. SIS volunteers (travel players) also assisted the instructors by helping them run and demonstrate drills. Several local rec league coaches also attended to learn from the clinic instructors. Parents were encouraged to watch and learn as well. We received many messages from parents commenting on how much their daughters learned and how much fun they had. One parent told us, "the instructors and volunteers had so much enthusiasm for the sport and for helping the girls. The two hours seemed to go by in no time and my daughter did not want to leave." After the clinic, the SIS volunteers played a brief scrimmage for the girls attending clinic so they could see the game played at a competitive level.

ALLIANCE CLINIC

Together with players and instructors from Ohio SlamForce and PBA Training, Stay in Softball held a clinic on December 11th at PBA Training in Alliance for approximately 30 girls aged 7-10 years old. Head instructors for the clinic were Lance Schmidt and former college players, Emily Schmidt, Shelbi Tilton and Sarah Wetcher. There were also eighteen player-volunteers from Ohio SlamForce who have committed to volunteering for Stay in Softball activities through Ohio SlamForce. The OSF volunteers and instructors worked on softball fundamentals with the participants in a fun and energized

atmosphere. The OSF players came up with fun relays and other games for the girls in order to practice their improved skills. All of the girls received ribbons and award certificates and had a great time getting to know the players. The volunteers from OSF have already set up follow up clinics and activities to help reach more beginning players in the Alliance and surrounding areas. For more information on this partnership, please see page 4.

PITCHING PROGRAM

Due to the numerous requests we have received, we started a free pitching program for beginning level pitchers ages 8-10 years old with financial need and older beginning pitchers in inner city or low income middle schools. The program involves pitchers committing to a series of free small group lessons taught by elite pitching instructors with SIS volunteer pitchers assisting. Currently, we have programs in Akron and Cleveland but hope to expand this program in 2017.





USED EQUIPMENT DRIVES

One of SIS's main programs is its used equipment collection and distribution program. All year, SIS asks players to donate their used equipment and gently used clothing so that we can give it to players and teams that can not afford their own.

In order to make it easier for players to donate equipment, SIS conducts used equipment drives at travel tournaments throughout the summer. At the tournaments, SIS volunteers set up tables and collect equipment, educate other players about SIS and handed out free SIS stickers, flyers and other items.

Organizations that hosted Stay in Softball Equipment Drives at their tournaments included Valley Extreme, the Ohio Outlaws and Champion Athletic Club.

This year we also started soliciting equipment collection partners: organizations that keep Stay in Softball equipment collection bins at their facilities.

Our current equipment collections partners are:

SPC Sports (Mentor) 9431 Mentor Ave. Mentor, OH 44060

SPC Sports (West) 7725 Victory Ln. #102 N. Ridgeville, OH 44039

AB Pitching Academy (Talmadge) 2420 Wedgewood Ave. Akron, OH

Used equipment can be dropped off at any of these locations. Please support them while you are there!

If you would like to become an equipment collection partner, have a SIS equipment drive at your tournament or have a large amount of equipment to donate, please e mail us at stayinsoftball@gmail.com.

VALLEY EXTREME & SIS CHARITY TOURNAMENT

On September 24-25, the Valley Extreme Fastpitch Organization hosted the Valley Extreme/SIS Charity Tournament. The tournament was held at the Candlelite Knolls fields in Warren and included teams in 10u, 14u and 16/18u divisions.

Stay in Softball player-volunteers manned an informational booth at the tournament and also held a used equipment drive and a raffle

both days of the tournament. The used equipment drive brought in over 60 pieces of equipment. The tournament raised over \$1,000 for Stay in Softball.

We would like to thank all of the teams who contributed items to the used equipment drive including: Fury Fastpitch, Lady Lookouts, Ohio Lightning, Ohio Ice, Ohio SlamForce, Ohio Outlaws, Lattess, Sluggers 18u, Steel City Cy-

clones, Streak Onyx, and Valley Extreme.

Stay in Softball would like to extend a huge thank you to Valley Extreme, Scott Munnell (TD) and all of its coaches (Kelm, Titus, Buck, Angelo, Fife, Georgalas, Swipas, Pozzuto), and Valley Extreme parents who worked the tournament. We would also like to thank the Cortland-Bazetta Optimist Club for use of the fields.





NIGHT WITH THE RACERS

SIS held our first Night with the Racers at the June 28th Racers/ PA Rebellion game. The purpose of the event was to support both the Racers and Stay In Softball.

Through the Racers' charity program, half of the \$7 price of tickets purchased using a SIS code was donated to us. In addition to getting to watch a great Racers win, those purchasing SIS tickets received free popcorn, a free raffle entry and chances to win one of many prizes a new Louisville Slugger LXT bat.

Before the game, we held a used equipment drive and handed out free SIS stickers and flyers. SIS volunteers and program participants also threw out first pitches and served as bat girls. SIS volunteer, Madi Vankirk was also "Racer for a Day" and warmed up with the Racers on the field prior to the game. SIS was also able to do-

nate tickets to the Akron Buchtel softball team so they could enjoy the game with us. Another highlight of the night was the pre-game tailgate sponsored by Ricky Moorehead from The Softball Zone (www.thesoftballzone.com). Ricky gave away prizes including Softball Zone t shirts and stickers. Ricky and Jeff Baker also did a live play by play broadcast of the game on The Softball Zone Radio Show.

Thanks to Pinnacle Elite, Ohio Wolfpack, Lady Lookouts, WWAST, and the Lady Bombers for supporting the event by buying tickets.

Thank you Akron Racers for your charity program, supporting youth softball and for giving Ohio the chance to watch professional softball all summer long! Softball groups, contact the Racers to find out about their charity program and all of the great activities offered.



TRAVEL ORGANIZATION PROGRAM

Ohio is lucky to have many travel softball organizations competing at elite levels and private instructors and coaches that are known and respected on a national basis. In order to share this softball knowledge with as many players as possible, SIS has started a SIS Travel Organization Program. Through the program, SIS and elite teams and instructors will team up to offer free clinics, lessons, mentor programs and collect equipment. The first two organizations in-

involved in this program are Ohio SlamForce/PBA Training and the Ohio Outlaws. The OSF partnership will also enable SIS increased assistance from top instructors such as Lance Schmidt and Bob Hoiles. The Outlaws partnership will enable SIS to reach out to the numerous Outlaw coaches who are known and respected on a national level.

Each organization has SIS volunteers who play for the organization and help recruit coaches and players from the organization to volun-

teer for activities. SIS Player Advisory Board members Emily Darlington and Tayler Cassidy will serve as program coordinators for OSF and the Outlaws respectively. OSF players Tori Rogers, Maddie Meyers, Tayler Willey and Alex Frankhauser will also assist Emily.

Thank you Warren Wolff and Tony Hudson for agreeing to work with SIS to bring free softball programming to more players. Please contact SIS if your organization is interested in being a partner.



OUR HISTORY AND MISSION

Stay in Softball was started in January of 2015 by fastpitch player, Meghan McKeogh. Meghan came up with the idea after her local softball team helped her family by providing meals and other assistance when her mother was recuperating from surgery. The assistance helped Meghan continue with her travel softball schedule without interruption.

Seeing how much the assistance helped her family, Meghan wanted to help other players who were experiencing some hardship so they could also continue to play softball. At that point, Stay in Softball was started.

In February, 2015 Stay in Softball was incorporated as an Ohio non profit corporation and in May, 2015 SIS obtained its 501(c)(3) tax ex-

empt status.

Although SIS started with the idea of helping players with a family emergency, it became apparent that there are many things that can keep girls from continuing to play softball at any level. Lack of equipment, facilities and coaching and inability to pay fees are other issues that can keep players from playing and advancing. SIS wants to help players experiencing any of these obstacles.

Therefore, SIS's charitable purpose is to:

i) provide equipment, training, mentoring and other assistance to girls who participate in fastpitch softball and who, because of low income or other hardship require outside support; ii) provide equip-

ment, assistance, training and mentoring to low income or otherwise in-need fastpitch softball teams; iii) conduct activities that help keep girls active and advancing in fastpitch softball; and iv) conduct educational and charitable activities for fastpitch teams and players that emphasize good sportsman-



STAY IN SOFTBALL PROGRAMS

Although Stay in Softball has a broad purpose and conducts many different activities, we have focused on three initial programs. They are:

1) Free Clinics and Lessons:

SIS sponsors free clinics and provide lessons for girls who want to improve their softball skills but don't have the resources or lack access to coaching or clinics appropriate for their skill level. Free clinics are coached by elite travel teams coaches and private instructors. Travel level players assist with clinics and lessons appropriate to their level of skill.

2) Equipment Collections/ Donations:

SIS collects used softball equipment, clothing and accessories and solicits companies and other donors for new equipment to donate to teams and players who may otherwise not be able to afford it. SIS distributes

the equipment at its free clinics and also take requests for equipment donations from coaches and instructors on behalf of teams and individual players. Please contact us if you know of a team or player in need.

3) Player Assistance:

SIS assists players and teams who are unable to afford softball fees and expenses. No team or girl should have to sit out because they can not afford to play. SIS will consider supporting players and fundraising events for teams or families with hardships/emergencies on a case by case basis.

For more information on any of these programs, please contact us at stayinsoftball@gmail.com.

* For information about SMART (Softball Mask Awareness and Rules Team) please go to www.pleasewearamask.com.



*Many players do not own facemasks and may not be able to afford them. SIS provides free facemasks to players and teams that can't afford them. SIS also supports SMART**



SUPPORT SIS AND OUR PROGRAMS

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of young girls? There are many ways you can support the mission of Stay in Softball so we can help keep girls in the game.

Monetary Donations

Stay in Softball's activities are made possible by monetary donations. Your donation of any size will help make a positive impact on the life of one or more players. You can make a monetary donation on our website: www.stayinsoftball.com or send us a check to Stay in Softball 464 Falls Rd. Chagrin Falls, OH 44022.

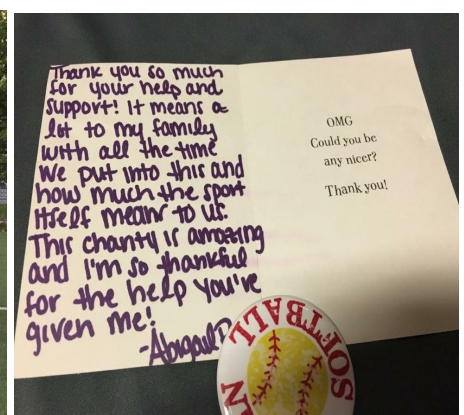
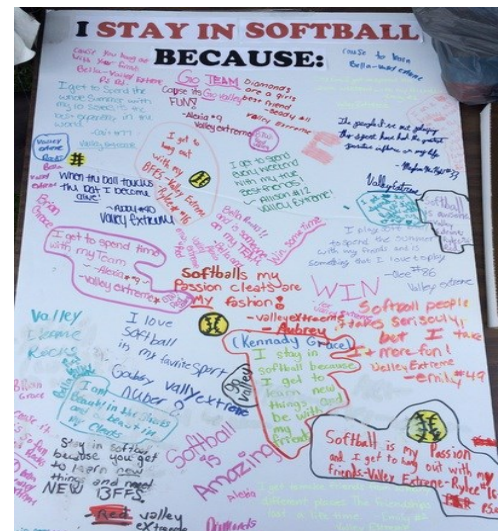
Equipment Donations

Softball equipment can be expensive and it is hard to practice and become a better player if you do not have your own equipment. That is why Stay in Softball collects used equipment to give to girls or teams that may not have the resources to buy their own. Whether it is a bat, a mitt, cleats or old balls, if it is still usable, there is some player who would love to have it. Please contact us with equipment donations and we can make arrangements to pick it up. Additionally, teams and coaches, please consider hosting your own equipment drive (we can help) and either donating the equipment to SIS or a needy team in your area.

Donate Your Time and Expertise

There are many ways you can share your knowledge and passion for softball by volunteering with us. We are looking for coaches, teams and players who want to help at free clinics; adults and players who would like to be a part of the Advisory Boards and players to help collect used equipment at tournaments and other events. We also need people who have skills like web page design, social media skills and many others. If you have a desire, we can use your help.

- WEBSITE:** WWW.STAYINSOFTBALL.COM
- FACEBOOK:** FACEBOOK.COM/STAYINSOFTBALL
- TWITTER:** @STAYINSOFTBALL
- INSTAGRAM:** STAYINSOFTBALL
- E MAIL:** STAYINSOFTBALL@GMAIL.COM
- MAIL:** 464 FALLS RD. CHAGRIN FALLS, OH 44022



SIS PLAYER VOLUNTEERS

SIS Player Advisory Board

Meghan McKeogh
Riley Frizell
Caitlyn Kelm
Beatrice Titus

Emily Darlington
Taylor Cassidy
Sydney Monroe
Alaina York



Player-Volunteers

Thank you to all of the travel softball players who assisted at our free softball clinics this year.

Taylor Cassidy, Ohio Outlaws
Emily Darlington, Ohio SlamForce
Trinity Duran, Bandits
Riley Frizell, Beverly Bandits
Emily Ickes, Ohio Wolfpack
Caitlyn Kelm, Thunder Elite
Olivia Kelm, Valley Extreme
Madison Long, Ohio Hawks
Meghan McKeogh, Ohio Wolfpack
Sydney Monroe, Ohio Bandits
Lexi Temple, Ohio Outlaws
Beatrice Titus, Valley Extreme

Chylece Cluck, Indiana Prospects
Brenna Hagerdon, Ohio SlamForce
Megan Ward, Thunder Elite
Rachel Ward, Thunder Elite
McKenzie Anderson, Diamond Chix
Emily Dlugolinski, Diamond Chix
Ania Grimm, Diamond Chix
Marcella McMahon, Diamond Chix
Abbi Grace, Ohio Ice
Kennady Grace, Valley Extreme
Destany Blake, Ohio SlamForce
Mackenzie Kohl, Ohio SlamForce
Megan Labut, Valley Extreme
Brooklyn Mack, SPC HotSox
Brooke Agosta, Valley Extreme
Olivia Hudson, Ohio SlamForce

Alyssa Hughes, Explosive Fastpitch
Madison Hufford, Thunder Elite
Tori Rodgers, Ohio SlamForce
Gabby Moore, Ohio SlamForce
Alex Fankhauser, Ohio SlamForce
Sydney Raymond, Ohio SlamForce
Taryn Allgood, Ohio SlamForce
Maddie Snyder, Ohio SlamForce
Brystal Borck, Ohio SlamForce
Layla Wolf, Ohio SlamForce
Samm Shimek, Ohio SlamForce
Riley Bobo, Ohio SlamForce
Taylor Willey, Ohio SlamForce
Katie Brogan, Ohio SlamForce
Andi Gross, Ohio SlamForce
Alyssa White, Ohio SlamForce
Maddie Meyers, Ohio SlamForce

SIS DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our 2016 donors, sponsors and volunteers. Because of your generosity, more girls can Stay in Softball.

Companies/Organizations:

The Softball Zone.com
Sign Guide wristband systems
Valley Extreme Girls Fastpitch
Dick's Sporting Goods
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Ass'n
Thrivent Financial
The Cortland/Bazetta Optimist Club
The Akron Racers
SPC Sports
Ohio PGF
Coventry Fury Organization
Ohio Outlaws Fastpitch
Ohio SlamForce
PBA Training
AB Pitching Academy
Girard Baseball & Softball
Champion Athletic Club

G Plex Facility
Ohio High School Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association
Community Pathway Resources
Lady Lookouts

Individuals:

Ricky Moorehead
Jeff Baker
Scott Munnell, Valley Extreme
Lance Schmidt, PBA
Bob Hoiles
Tony Hudson, Ohio SlamForce
Warren Wolff
Dave Kelm, Valley Extreme
Ronnie Titus, Valley Extreme
Danny Peterson, Coventry Fury
Chris and Jo Monroe
Tim and Karen McKeogh
Nick and Tracy Gardner Frizell
Michele and Todd Kuhrt & family
Patrice and Ron Darlington
Crystal and Jesse Temple

Rich and Ronnie Titus
Nicki and Paul Hufford,
Amber Ricci
Tony Potts
Tracy Ricci
Dave Flickinger
Dave and Adrienne Kelm
Brian Grace
Alanna Barker Overholt
Lance and Cheryl Schmidt
Bobbi, Orville and Lainie Simmons
Jerry McDonough
Dave McGeary
Emily Schmidt
Shelbi Tilton
Sarah Wetcher

Thank you to all of the players and families who donated used equipment to our used equipment drives! Thanks to your generosity we provided used equipment for ten teams and over fifty players.

SIS IN THE NEWS

FLOSOFTBALL

On November 30, 2016, FloSoftball published an article about Stay in Softball. The article discussed SIS's purpose and activities and contained links to Stay in Softball's website as well as video from SIS's segment on Fox 8 News in Cleveland. The article brought Stay in Softball significant exposure on a national level.

You can see the story online at: <http://www.flosoftball.com/article/48861-stay-in-softball-keeps-players-on-the-field>

FOX 8 NEWS

On April 11, 2016 Stay in Softball Advisory Board members Meghan McKeogh, Cait Kelm and Beatrice Titus were interviewed on the Fox 8 News (Cleveland) Morning Show to talk about the organization. The interview was posted on Fox8 News' website and also brought SIS a great deal of positive publicity in the Cleveland area.

The segment and story can be seen here: VIDEO: <http://via.fox8.com/QZYn4>

STORY: <http://fox8.com/2016/04/18/local-teen-creates-stay-in-softball-to-help-get-girls-on-the-ball-field>

WKBN FIRST NEWS

WKBN News in Warren, Ohio came to our Warren Free clinic and ran a story on their evening and late night news broadcasts about the clinic and our organization.

The story and video can be seen online at: <http://wkbn.com/2015/07/20/stay-in-softball-hosts-free-clinic/>



