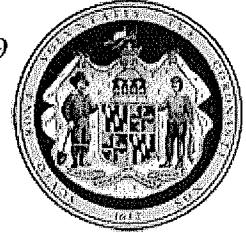




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Attorney General Gansler and Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Team Up to Launch *Badges for Baseball* in Maryland *Statewide Program to Kick Off February 1st in Nine Maryland Jurisdictions*

BALTIMORE, MD (January 28, 2010) - Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation (CRSF) today announced the launch of the 2010 Maryland *Badges for Baseball* program. The program is being implemented in nine Maryland jurisdictions, including eight county Sheriff's offices. *Badges for Baseball* partners include: the Sheriff's offices of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Harford, Prince George's and Washington counties, and Baltimore City.

Badges for Baseball is a crime prevention program designed to pair law enforcement professionals as mentors and coaches with youth. The program serves as a positive outlet for youth during out-of-school hours when they are most likely to commit or become victims of crime. Participating youth will learn the basics of baseball/softball while taking part in the Foundation's character development program, *Healthy Choices, Healthy Children*.

Through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Office of Attorney General was awarded a Byrne Justice Recovery Assistance (BJRA) Act grant totaling \$222,785. The grant funds must be used to replicate or expand programs aimed at preventing or reducing violent crime. The grant to the Office of Attorney General will be used to support the Maryland *Badges for Baseball* program. CRSF will provide all technical and programmatic support, bringing the total investment in Maryland's young people most in need to more than \$275,000.

"Badges for Baseball not only teaches kids the basic skills of the game, but they also learn critical life lessons in leadership, good sportsmanship, and integrity while developing positive relationships with law enforcement officers in their own communities," said Attorney General Gansler.

"We're thrilled to partner with Attorney General Gansler and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to expand *Badges for Baseball* across our home state," said Steve Salem, Executive Director of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation. "The support of Attorney General Gansler and the GOCCP has been tremendous; we're looking forward to working with all of the

Maryland *Badges for Baseball* sites to bring these important messages of respect, work ethic, leadership and perseverance to kids across the state.”

In support of the 2010 *Badges for Baseball* program, the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and the Office of Attorney General Doug Gansler will provide:

- \$18,000 cash grants to nine sites
- \$2,800 baseball/softball and Quickball grants to nine sites
- *Healthy Choices, Healthy Children* program materials and on-going staff training
- “Ripken Way” baseball/softball clinics
- Opportunity for 27 youth and their mentors to travel to Aberdeen for CRSF Summer Camp

About the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation helps build character and teach critical life lessons to disadvantaged youth residing in America’s most distressed communities through baseball and softball themed programs. Founded in 2001 by members of the Ripken family in memory of their patriarch Cal, Sr., the Foundation works to create programs that positively impact underserved youth through active community partnerships with America’s most successful youth service organizations. www.ripkenfoundation.org