



Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation

News Release

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OHSAA FOUNDATION COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVE EXPANDING FOR 2009

Columbus, Ohio – The Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation is pleased to announce the expansion of their statewide community service initiative, “**OHSAA Foundation Service Week.**” The inaugural Foundation Service Week took place last fall in the sport of basketball, where nearly \$250,000 was raised for charitable organizations and causes around the state. During their February 12, 2009 meeting, the OHSAA Board of Directors unanimously approved a proposal put forth by the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association (OHSVCA) for a Foundation Service Week in volleyball beginning in the fall of 2009. “The OHSVCA is pleased to partner with the OHSAA Foundation for Foundation Service Week. We see this as an opportunity for teams to connect with their community,” stated OHSVCA President, Scott Taylor.

Service Week provides 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**” in basketball and “**Foundation Matches**” in volleyball where participating schools are permitted to use one of the five allotted scrimmages to play a live game / match under all normal conditions, although the scrimmage does not count on a team’s record. The **2009 Foundation Service Weeks are scheduled as follows:**

2009 VOLLEYBALL SERVICE WEEK	08/14/09	-	08/29/09
2009 BASKETBALL SERVICE WEEK	11/18/09	-	12/05/09

Participation materials have been sent to all OHSAA member schools and additional information regarding the 2009 OHSAA Foundation Service Weeks can be found at www.ohsaafoundation.org.

The proceeds from Foundation Events go directly to the selected community service project, minus a \$250 donation per school to 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 for over 1,000 student-athletes and administrators at no cost to member schools.

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During the inaugural Service Week in 2008, over 250 high schools participated in 136 events across the state. 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 organizations.

Beyond the dollars raised, Ohio schools collected clothing, books, eyeglasses, toys and approximately 30,000 lbs. of food for food banks across the state. 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. Many schools that participated in 2008 have plans to expand their community service programs for 2009.

The OHSAA Foundation was created over 10 years ago to provide resources for enhancing educational opportunities and services for Ohio's student-athletes.

— OHSAA FOUNDATION —