



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ATTORNEY GENERAL J.B. VAN HOLLEN, CAL RIPKEN, SR. FOUNDATION, AND MILWAUKEE BREWERS TEAM TO PROVIDE BADGES FOR BASEBALL DAY AT THE BALLPARK

Kids and mentors to attend Brewers Game on July 7

MILWAUKEE, WI – The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation has announced that 700 children who participate in *Badges for Baseball* will join Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen at Miller Park today for *Badges for Baseball Day* at the Ballpark. Thanks to a generous gift from the Milwaukee Brewers, youth and adult participants will enjoy a Major League experience. Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen will throw out the first pitch.

Badges for Baseball is being implemented at 7 community based organizations (CBO) across the city of Milwaukee as a result of a partnership between the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation (CRSF) and the office of Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen. CBOs involved in the project are: Northcott Neighborhood House, United Community Center, Neighborhood House, Agape Community Center, COA Youth and Family Centers, Don & Sallie Davis Boys & Girls Club, and Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club.

Badges for Baseball is a crime prevention program designed to pair law enforcement professionals as mentors and coaches with youth. Public Safety partners include staff from the Milwaukee Police Association, the Milwaukee Professional Firefighter's Association and the Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation. 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 participating in the Foundation's character development program, *Healthy Choices, Healthy Children*.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice, headed by Van Hollen, has awarded the CRSF \$100,000 to support the Milwaukee *Badges for Baseball* program. In addition, the CRSF will provide matching equipment and support to invest more than \$200,000 to help Milwaukee's young people most in need.

"We're thrilled to partner with Attorney General Van Hollen and the Wisconsin law enforcement community to bring *Badges for Baseball* to Milwaukee," said Steve Salem, Executive Director of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation. "The support of Attorney General Van Hollen's office has been tremendous; we're looking forward to working with all of the Milwaukee *Badges for Baseball* sites to bring these important messages of respect, work ethic, leadership and perseverance to kids across the city."

This spring and summer, kids at all 7 CBOs are learning the basics of the Ripken philosophy, baseball and softball "The Ripken Way," and the Foundation's character education curriculum *Healthy Choices, Healthy Children* which integrates lessons such as teamwork, leadership, and respect into situations both on and off the ball field.

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 disadvantaged youth through active community partnerships with America's most successful youth service organizations. www.ripkenfoundation.org

About the Wisconsin Department of Justice

Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen is the head of the Wisconsin Department of Justice. **The Department of Justice (DOJ)** provides legal advice and representation, criminal investigations, and various law enforcement services for the state. The Department consists of four divisions and one office: The Division of Criminal Investigation, Division of Law Enforcement Services, Division of Legal Services, Division of Management Services and the Office of Crime Victim Services.

<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/>

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