



U.P. FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME



U.P. Charities Benefit From All-Star Football Game

MARQUETTE, MI – The U.P. Football All-Star Game made donations to several U.P.-based charities this week.

Beacon House, the game's major beneficiary, is located in Marquette and serves the entire Upper Peninsula. The mission of Beacon House is to provide lodging and other supportive services in a "home-like" environment for patients and their caregivers traveling to Marquette County for medical treatment.

A check in the amount of \$4000 was given to Beacon House on behalf of the U.P. Football All-Star Game. Todd Goldbeck, Owner of Xcel Sports Training and organizer of the All-Star Game, presented the check to Marcy Griffen, Executive Director of Beacon House.

In addition to the monetary donation, the All-Star players collected over 600 pounds of non-perishable items that were used to fill the food pantry at Beacon House.

"Thanks to the spirit of helping others in need by the players and their families from across the U.P., Beacon House's food pantry is now well-stocked to accommodate our guests who stay here during their time of medical need when home is too far away", stated Griffen.

"Often times, our guests arrive here due to a medical emergency with nothing more than the shirt on their back. Our pantry ensures that these families will get food to maintain their strength during their time of need. We are grateful to the U.P. Football All-Star Game for their generosity."

The U.P. Sports Hall of Fame also received a donation in the amount of \$1000, which will be used to help fund the annual scholarships that are given out each year to deserving high school student-athletes.

Denny Grall, who is an executive officer for the UPSHF and sports writer for the Escanaba Daily Press, had this to say, "What a great reward for a great project from a great event. Everything about the renewal of the U.P. Football All-Star Game was first-class, and these donations underline that tremendous success."

The All-Star Game also put a slight spin on the typical sports raffle. The 30/30/30/10 raffle pledged to give 30% of the money collected to the winner, 30% to any U.P. high school that the winner selected, 30% to the All-Star Game, and 10% to the Marquette High School Dance Team for helping conduct the raffle. The winner, William Basch, picked Ishpeming High School to receive the donation. Basch and Ishpeming HS both received \$273, while the Marquette Dance Team, received \$91 for their efforts.

The All-Star Game sponsors also got into the act of giving. Vango's Restaurant, who presented the Pre-Game Tailgate, gave portions of their proceeds to Beacon House and the YMCA. Hantz Financial of Marquette gave away a pair of tickets to the Packers-Lions game and the US Army gave away an iPod music player.

"We are very excited for the success of the game in its first year, and are happy to be supporting these worthwhile U.P. charities (Beacon House and U.P. Sports Hall of Fame). We are also appreciative of our sponsors and the fans of U.P. football for making this game possible. In years to come, we hope to grow the game and the ability to give even more back to all of the communities throughout the U.P.", Goldbeck said.

Next year's game is already scheduled for June 27, 2009.

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