



# 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 and organizations this week totaling \$6600.

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 \$2000 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 700 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 YMCA Strong Kids Program was given a check in the amount of \$1600 on behalf of the All-Star Game and Vango's, who provided catering to the All-Star Banquet and Tailgate. Michele Butler, owner of Vango's, is very well known for her generosity to the Marquette community. The Strong Kids Program provides financial assistance to youth members who are not able to afford membership dues. Teaching kids about the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle and exercising is a major goal of the YMCA.

Two individual U.P. high schools also received donations this year. Norway and Ewen-Trout Creek high schools each were given a check in the amount of \$1000 that may be used for the school football program. The money may be used for any number of items, such as equipment or uniforms. The schools drawn randomly, and new schools will be drawn each year until all U.P. football teams have been selected.

The officials took a turn giving when they decided to donate their game check of \$500 to Bay Cliff Health Camp, which is a therapy center and recreational camp for handicapped children and adults, located in Big Bay. Norm Pestka Construction, Ontonagon, matched the officials' amount, bringing the total donation to \$500 for Bay Cliff.

The U.P. Sports Hall of Fame also received a donation in the amount of \$500, which will be used to help fund the annual scholarships that are given out each year to deserving high school student-athletes.

"We are very excited for the success of the game this year, and are happy to be supporting these worthwhile U.P. charities and schools. 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 the communities of the U.P.", Goldbeck said.

Next year's game is scheduled for June 26, 2010.

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