

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ANNOUNCES NEW COLLABORATION WITH CAL RIPKEN SR. FOUNDATION TO ENHANCE REVIVING BASEBALL IN INNER CITIES (RBI) PROGRAM

Executive Major League Baseball and the Cal Ripken, Sr., Foundation (CRSF) today announced a new collaboration that will expand the MLB Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities program by 30 percent, and provide nearly one million dollars in equipment and cash grants to support new and established RBI programs in 60 U.S. cities.

Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI), a youth outreach program supported by Major League Baseball and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, is designed to increase participation in baseball, encourage academic achievement, develop self-esteem, and teach the value of teamwork. Founded in 1989, RBI currently has programs in more than 200 cities worldwide, and annually provides as many as 120,000 boys and girls with the opportunity to play baseball and softball.

"I have great admiration for Cal Ripken, Jr., and his family and am extremely pleased that Major League Baseball and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation will join forces to provide children with a program that will help them grow and build a better future," said Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig.

"We started the foundation in memory of our dad in 2001 and I am very proud to see how much it has grown and all of the good work we have been able to do since that time," said Cal Ripken, Jr. "I always enjoyed using the platform that baseball provided me to do some good things and now this opportunity to work with Major League Baseball takes it to a whole new level."

Cal Ripken, Jr., helped announce the collaboration at a press conference held at Oriole Park at Camden Yards prior to Orioles 2007 home opener. Ripken was joined by Baltimore Orioles Centerfielder Corey Patterson, Detroit Tigers Centerfielder Curtis Granderson, MLB President and Chief Operating Officer Bob DuPuy, Founding Chairperson of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Vi Ripken, MLB Vice

President of Baseball Operations Jimmie Lee Solomon, Vice President of Community Affairs and Educational Programming Tom Brasuell, and children from the local Baltimore RBI program.

The collaboration includes the CRSF annual Play Ball! Tour for Kids, a grassroots programming tour. During the 2007 tour, Ripken Foundation representatives will travel to 15 cities to present the cash grants and equipment packages to select RBI programs. Tour activities will include a youth clinic, as well as a *Healthy Choices, Healthy Children* character education training for adult RBI staff.

The Play Ball! Tour for Kids is only one component of our new relationship with Major League Baseball," said Steve Salem, executive director, Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation. "The tour will allow us to introduce our programming in many new cities, and provide these RBI leagues with support to both enhance and expand their efforts. We look forward to working with MLB in the coming years to encourage the continued development of young people in these communities through solid baseball and softball programs."

The RBI program enters its 19th season in 2007. Over the last 15 years, Major League Baseball has donated over \$20 million to the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) Program.

Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) is one of a number of MLB-supported community programs that are helping to carry on the legacy of Baseball great Jackie Robinson. This Sunday, April 15, MLB and its 30 Clubs will celebrate Jackie Robinson Day in recognition of the contributions Robinson made to the game of baseball and to society.

Remaining 2007 Play Ball Tour stops will include the following cities and programs:

New York, New York	Harlem RBI	April 9 th – 11 th
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Philadelphia Phillies RBI	April 12 th – 14 th
Chicago, Illinois	Union League Boys & Girls Club	April 16 th – 18 th
Los Angeles, California	Angels Gene Autry RBI League Los Angeles RBI	April 19 th – 22 nd
Seattle, Washington	Seattle Mariners RBI Boys & Girls Club of Snohomish	April 23 rd – 25 th
Baltimore, MD	Baltimore Orioles RBI	April 30 th
Washington, DC	Batter-Up Foundation	May 1 st
Arlington, TX	Boys & Girls Clubs of Arlington	May 2 nd – 4 th
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