



MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS PHILANTHROPY

Representatives from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Sports Philanthropy Project (SPP) travelled to Memphis to present the Memphis Grizzlies Charitable Foundation with the 2007 Steve Patterson Award for Excellence in Sports Philanthropy. The official presentation, which occurred on Saturday, November 3rd at FedEx Forum (on center court, between the first and second quarters of the Grizzlies' game versus the Indiana Pacers) was a fitting

capstone to a two-day visit, during which SPP and RWJF had the opportunity to witness in action the outstanding programs that make the Memphis Grizzlies one of the most charitable professional sports franchises in the country.

The [Memphis Grizzlies Charitable Foundation](#) was established in July 2004 to make a profound impact on the community and help organizations to fulfill their missions. The Foundation promotes its family of partnerships, community outreach and myriad resources to add value to each monetary contribution. It also fosters collaboration among organizations for the most effective delivery of opportunities to urban youth through mentoring, sports and education programs. It was preceded by the Memphis Grizzlies Charitable Fund, a donor-advised fund established at the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis in December 2001 to make grants to Memphis-area non-profit organizations. Since December 2001, the Memphis Grizzlies Charitable Fund and Foundation have contributed over \$19 million to local nonprofit organizations, including the development of Grizzlies Academy, a public high school for teenagers who are two years or more behind grade level; Memphis Grizzlies House, a short-term family residence on the campus of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; and the Memphis Athletic Ministries' Grizzlies Athletic Center, a first-class public recreational complex available to neighborhood youth.



Members of the Memphis delegation pose with Grizzlies star forward-center Pau Gasol.



Students at the Stax Music Academy perform a moving, 'a capella' arrangement of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

Jamie Moyer and his wife, Karen.

The [Steve Patterson Award for Excellence in Sports Philanthropy](#), given annually to a professional sports organization and to an individual athlete philanthropy that demonstrate excellence and leadership in community and national philanthropy, was established in 2005 by the Sports Philanthropy Project and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the largest philanthropy devoted to health and health care in the United States. It includes a \$5,000 honorarium to advance the work of each winning foundation. The award was created in memory of Steve Patterson, former UCLA basketball star, NBA and college coach, and one who believed in and practiced the power of sports philanthropy to make a difference in the lives of others. Patterson died of cancer in July 2004.

The award for individual athlete philanthropy was presented in August to the Moyer Foundation, founded by MLB All-Star pitcher

For all media inquiries, including requests for interviews and additional information, contact Jubi Headley at (832) 407-3927 or via e-mail at jheadley@sportsphilanthropy.com.

The Sports Philanthropy Project: The #1 Source for Sports Philanthropy Information