



## **Pitch In For Baseball® Steps Up to Help Minneapolis and St Paul High Schoolers Play Ball This Season**

*Roy Smalley led not-for-profit donates over \$10,000 in equipment to assist Twin Cities public school baseball and softball programs this year*

PHILADELPHIA, PA – March 17, 2015 - Pitch In For Baseball (PIFB), a Harleysville, PA based not-for-profit that collects and redistributes new and gently-used baseball and softball equipment to communities in need is helping youngsters to play ball in Minneapolis and St Paul.

Roy Smalley, former Twins All-Star shortstop and Pitch In For Baseball's President, today officially donated much needed equipment and uniform resources to coaches and players from 12 local team. The donation took place at Target Field. The gear, which is a combination of new gear and items that had been collected locally throughout Twins country, includes: catchers gear, bases, batting tees, bats, baseballs, softballs, batting helmets, equipment bags, uniform pants and more.

“Our mission is to ensure that a lack of baseball equipment never stops anyone from playing baseball,” said Roy Smalley III. “This donation is particularly gratifying to me because I played most of my career here and still call this community my home.” Smalley, who played most of his 13 year MLB career with the Twins, is a resident of neighboring Edina.

This donation is an expansion of a public school donation program that Pitch In For Baseball has established in Philadelphia. “We’ve had such great success in the Philadelphia area with our school program that we wanted to expand the impact of this model,” said PIFB Executive Director David Rhode. “With our relationship with the Twins and Roy being part of the community, we could think of no better place to launch this than Minneapolis and St Paul.”

PIFB helped 60 teams this spring in the Philadelphia area and it believes it can have a similar impact in other markets. The donation to the Minneapolis and St Paul schools was made possible with the financial support of the Minnesota Twins, The Baseball Tomorrow Fund, and John Steele, an Edina resident and employee of the Target Corporation.

Schools part of the donation today include Saint Paul Central Softball (Softball), Washington Technology Magnet (Baseball and Softball), Hazel Park Preparatory Academy (Baseball), and Battle Middle School (Baseball and Softball).

"98% of our student-athletes live at or below the poverty level. Without assistance from PIFB, many of our kids would be unable to participate in these extra-curricular sports," said Jeanne Kranz, Athletic Director Washington Technology Magnet School. "Our school is over 60% ELL students. For many of these English Language Learners, (coming from countries where baseball and softball are not part of their cultural tradition,) they are experiencing these sports for the first time."

"The Twins and the Twin Cities community are blessed to have a great partner in Pitch In For Baseball," said Bryan Donaldson, Executive Director of the Twins Community Fund. "Pitch In for Baseball's donation will help to further the opportunities kids in the inner city have to play the games of baseball and softball, and make a difference in their lives and the community as a whole."

People can support the efforts of PIFB by donating new or gently-used baseball equipment, or by making a financial donation. To donate visit [www.pifb.org](http://www.pifb.org).

### **About Pitch In For Baseball**

Founded in 2005, Pitch In For Baseball is the central organization for the collection and redistribution of new and gently used youth baseball and softball equipment to underserved communities around the world. PIFB had distributed equipment and uniforms to more than 80 countries worldwide and more than 450 communities around the United States impacting over 400,000 children in need. Based outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, PIFB is a 501 c 3 not for profit organization. For more information, visit [www.pifb.org](http://www.pifb.org).

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