

Shifting Gears Presents Restored Bikes to Kids

Indianapolis, Indiana (June 19, 2008)--On Thursday, June 19, local high school students from the Indiana Action Team accompanied 26 players from the Fredrick Douglass Little League in Indianapolis on a bus trip to a Cincinnati Reds home game. Once they returned to Indianapolis after the game, the children were welcomed home with a surprise gift – a bicycle given to each of them as part of the “Shifting Gears” program.

The Department of Correction, the Indianapolis Mayor’s office, Volunteers of America, and the Major League Players Association worked together to coordinate the bike presentation event for the kids.

The Shifting Gears program, established at Pendleton Correctional Facility in 2006 and later modeled at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, obtains used bicycles through donations for repair, renovation and distribution to under-privileged children and others in need. The program also serves to provide meaningful work opportunities for offenders and prepare them for a successful re-entry into the community. To date, over 1,300 bicycles have been refurbished at both facilities.

