

The Sky in Our Community

Giving back to Chicagoland is a high priority for the Sky: our players made over 250 appearances in 2007! We are working to encourage our young fans to dream big, and to make their dreams a reality through dedication and hard work.

Clinics The Sky is dedicated to helping girls develop their basketball skills while encouraging teamwork and positive attitudes. The Sky hosted more than 20 clinics this year in partnership with local schools, camps, and community organizations, giving girls 7-18 the opportunity to learn from Sky players, coaches and staff.



35+ Clinic The Sky held its second annual clinic for women over 35 in April. The women ranged from 35 to 75 years old and came from all over the Midwest. Skill levels varied from Senior Olympic Gold medal winners to women who had never played. They learned fundamental skills from Sky athletes and competed in shooting and dribbling games.



Read to Achieve The Sky enthusiastically participates in the WNBA/NBA Read to Achieve program to encourage students to develop reading skills and forge a lifelong relationship with books. The Sky continues its partnership with the Chicago Public Library to encourage the 45,000+ participants in the annual Summer Reading Program to meet their reading goals. Sky players make appearances at branches to read aloud, hand out giveaways, answer questions and sign autographs. Ten lucky raffle winners from each of the 79 branches are honored as members of the Sky's All-Star Reading Team at a Sky game. This summer we are adding the North Suburban and DuPage libraries to the program.

High School Team of the Week The Sky selected a girl's varsity basketball "High School Team of the Week" every Tuesday during the 2007-8 season. Each winning team received a "Team Night Out" ticket package to a summer 2008 Sky home game and will be honored on the court during the game. Teams were selected based on teamwork and dedication to the game, their studies and their community. The winners were: Tinley Park High School, Shiloh High School, Stevenson High School, Wheaton Warrenville South High School, Morgan Park Academy, and North Boone High School.

Resurrection Basketball League The Resurrection Basketball League is one of our most exciting and rewarding community programs. RBL is a Friday-night, take-back-our-streets summer league in the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods. The league is designed to break down neighborhood barriers by bringing people together from different gang territories and take back the streets from gangs, if only for a few hours on a Friday night. This summer Sky coaches, players and staff will fill all the volunteer jobs on the league's final night, Saturday, August 16; sponsor the lone (and mighty) girls team; host a clinic open to all RBL players; and donate a ticket to a Sky game to each player. The Sky and RBL share a mission: to use sports to bring kids together and teach them the value of teamwork.



Leukemia Lymphoma Society The Sky joined forces with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Illinois Chapter in support of its "Pennies for Patients" school program which encourages pre-K – 12th grade students to collect pennies for patients battling leukemia and other blood cancers, illnesses that take the life of one American every ten minutes. The top fundraising class in the top five schools will receive tickets to the Sky's 2008 season home opener on May 22, and two students from each of the five classes will participate in the pre-game ball exchange with Sky players.

Nothing But Nets The WNBA and Sky support the Nothing But Nets (NBN) global, grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. It only costs \$10 to provide a long-lasting insecticide-treated bed net that can prevent this deadly disease. In July 2007, the Sky and Nothing But Nets partnered for an in-arena night, and Sky fans donated \$3,600 – purchasing 360 life-saving bed nets. This summer, NBN and the Sky look forward to engaging more Sky fans in this cause to send more nets and save more lives. Sky players and staff will participate in the first-ever World Malaria Day on April 25, 2008 and the team will host another NBN in-arena night on July 10.



The Polar Plunge For the second year in a row, Sky Guy participated in the annual Chicago Polar Plunge and raised more than \$1,000 to benefit the Special Olympics.

Bank of America's "Women of Inspiration" Bank of America (formerly LaSalle Bank) and the Sky sponsor an annual recognition program to select and honor inspiring women from the Chicago area at Sky home games. In 2007, the five honorees were breast cancer survivor Shawn Mercer Dixon; Sister Stephanie Blaszczyński, who built a school in Tanzania; teen Beth Wenzl, who encouraged her JV softball team after being seriously injured in a car accident; activist and reformer (and octogenarian) Betty Moore; and compassionate businesswoman Tyra Banks.

Chevy's "Together We Stand Tall" Mentoring Program During the 2007 season, Chevrolet and the Sky sponsored a mentoring program for girls 8-16, who submitted essays explaining what they believed it meant to "Stand Tall." Three winners were selected for mentoring experiences with Sky players Dominique Canty, Stacey Dales and Brooke Wyckoff, including attending a practice, going out to lunch with their player/mentor, sitting courtside at a Sky game, and having the player come to their school.

Donation and Player Appearance Requests The Chicago Sky Community Relations department handles all requests for donations and player/coach appearances. All requests must be received in writing, preferably four to six weeks prior to the scheduled event, and must be on organization/company letterhead. Requests should be sent to: Chicago Sky, c/o Community Relations Requests, 20 W. Kinzie, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL, 60610. Requests can also be faxed to (312) 828-9979 or emailed to Kristi Faulkner at kfaulkner@chicagosky.net. We will consider all requests, but cannot fulfill all of them.



The Sky Cares Foundation supports the Sky's mission of building girls' self-esteem and providing girls and young women with positive mentors. Sky Cares is deeply committed to creating programs that promote a healthy lifestyle and positive self-image, through education and support for youth and family development initiatives. Founded in January, 2008, the Sky Cares Foundation's first initiatives are "Give Girls Game" and "Learn to Soar."

Give Girls Game is a health and fitness festival designed to show girls 10-16 all the ways they can get active, whether by playing a sport or dancing or jumping double-dutch. Research has proven that good habits in health and physical activity help build self-esteem and confidence:

- + Girls who do 15 minutes of moderate physical activity a day reduce their risk of obesity by almost 50 percent
- + Girls who play sports are less likely to do drugs and get pregnant; they are most likely to get higher test scores and develop self-confidence
- + Oppenheimer Funds study finds 4 out of 5 executive business women played sports growing up

Having role models, mentors, educators and coaches who model and teach this behavior is a critical aspect of building these positive life habits. Sky Cares is working with several local girl-serving organizations, including Girls in the Game, Girls on the Run-Chicago, the Women's Sports Foundation's GoGirlGo! Chicago program, Step Up Women's Network, Chicago Park District and the Mayor's Fitness Council to bring together mentors and coaches with over 500 girls from the Chicago Public Schools on May 29 from 4-6 p.m. at UIC's SEO field. After the girls visit all the festival stations and earn a t-shirt, we'll keep them moving by walking together to UIC Pavilion, where the girls will watch the Sky take on the Minnesota Lynx. The game will give the girls an unforgettable opportunity to witness first-hand the power and poise of professional female athletes and will provide a motivating message of what can be accomplished through dedication, determination and discipline.

Sky Cares Foundation's Learn to Soar program is a series of three workshops for girls 10-16 focused on teambuilding, conflict resolution, health and body image, and leadership and goal-setting. Following each workshop, girls will be driven by trolley to the UIC Pavilion where they will be treated to an unforgettable Sky game experience.

- + **Teamwork and Conflict Resolution:** Carla McGee, former WNBA great, Olympic gold medalist and two-time NCAA Champion, will kick off the workshop with her inspiring story of overcoming a near fatal car crash to become a legendary basketball player. Girls will watch the stirring documentary "The Heart of the Game" and will be lead through a highly-regarded curriculum built around the themes of teamwork, character and conflict resolution.
- + **Health and Body Image:** Award-winning author Jean Kilbourne was named by Time Magazine as one of the three most popular speakers on college campuses today. Her powerful presentation, called "The Naked Truth: Advertising's Image of Women," will help girls reject unrealistic media images in favor of their own positive self-image.
- + **Leadership and Goal Setting:** Julie Foudy, co-captain of the US Women's National Soccer Team for ten years, two-time Olympic gold medalist and two-time FIFA World Champion, now runs a leadership camp for girls. Her workshop will give girls practical leadership tools for their team, school, community and life.