

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND MCCORMICK FOUNDATION  
TO GRANT \$4 MILLION THROUGH WELCOME BACK VETERANS**

**Organizations from Ann Arbor, Atlanta, Boston and Los Angeles Each to Receive \$1 Million  
To Support Treatment and Research of PTSD and TBI for Military Veterans**

Major League Baseball Charities and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, through Welcome Back Veterans ([www.WelcomeBackVeterans.org](http://www.WelcomeBackVeterans.org)), have awarded four \$1 million grants to university hospitals that are developing programs and creating Centers of Excellence to treat U.S. Veterans and their family members who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). In addition to the grants from MLB and the McCormick Foundation, the university hospitals will be supported locally by MLB Clubs. The organizations that will receive funding are the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, supported by the Detroit Tigers; Emory University in Atlanta, supported by the Atlanta Braves; the Red Sox Foundation in Boston, supported by the Boston Red Sox; and the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), supported by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Major League Baseball Charities and the McCormick Foundation have awarded approximately \$11 million dollars to date for programs serving veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Major League Baseball recognizes that our men and women in the military make significant sacrifices in serving our nation every day,” said Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig. “We are honored to show our gratitude by committing resources to organizations that provide veterans and their family members services to treat symptoms of PTSD and TBI. I want to thank the McCormick Foundation and the Clubs for supporting these four grant recipients.”

“All of us at the McCormick Foundation salute our veterans who have given so much,” said David Hiller, president and CEO of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. “For thousands of returning veterans, their sacrifices include visible, but often invisible wounds of war. We are proud to join with Major League Baseball in this effort to support healthcare and research to help veterans successfully return to life with their families and communities.”

The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, an organization supported by the Detroit Tigers, will receive a grant on behalf of their University of Michigan Depression Center and Department of Psychiatry—both parts of their *Welcome Back Veterans Core Center*. The Core Center programs are designed to improve access to mental health treatment and reintegration resources for veterans, and to provide support, education and programs to military families throughout the deployment cycle. The program will continue to focus on the

National Guard and Reserve and their families through their *Buddy-to-Buddy* and *Strong Families* program, and its *Military Family Support Forum*. The *Buddy-to-Buddy* program is a peer-to-peer initiative that counteracts stigma so that military service members and veterans can get the help they need as they reintegrate back to civilian life. The *Strong Families* program is an eight-week curriculum for military parents of young children. It offers skill building in parenting, improved marital partner communication, and linkage to resources that support the family. The *Military Family Support Forum* is a monthly group offering support and education to all military family members throughout the deployment cycle. The Detroit Tigers support the overall program through a partnership with the Veterans Affairs Healthcare Systems in Ann Arbor. Veterans are selected to participate in "Verlander's Victory for Veterans," a program that invites veterans who sustained injuries or illness during missions in Iraq or Afghanistan to attend a game started by Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander with their family in the personal luxury suite of Verlander. As Verlander's guests, the group is welcomed on the videoboard and receives his *Victory for Veterans* t-shirts.

Emory University in Atlanta will be receiving a grant to establish their *BraveHeart: Welcome Back Veterans Southeast Initiative*, an outreach, screening, assessment and services initiative, which is supported by the Atlanta Braves, that provides services to returning veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and their families across the southeast region. Online services will be available universally through a Web site portal that will provide general information on issues for veterans and their families related to deployment and trauma with content that is appropriate for all ages. It will also link to the initiative's clinical care coordinator for further support. Throughout the season, the Atlanta Braves Foundation will assist BraveHeart with fundraising efforts, and will host veterans and their families at Braves games. Additionally, Atlanta Braves players will participate in public service announcements and participate in visits to veterans' hospitals and military bases.

The Red Sox Foundation is the official charity of the Boston Red Sox, and is committed to raising awareness about veterans among fans and community members across New England. The foundation will be receiving a grant to support *The Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base Program*, which was jumpstarted by Red Sox chairman Tom Werner and developed by the team charity in conjunction with medical experts at Massachusetts General Hospital. The Home Base Program offers confidential clinical care for New England-based veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) while also providing counseling and support services for their families. The grant will support expansion of the multidisciplinary team to treat more veterans and family members and sustain their care; help to establish a telemedicine regional program to reach veterans unable to travel to Boston for treatment and to enhance clinical care for patients currently seeking care in Boston; and allow the program to further test the viability of Home Base as a national model for replication.

The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) will be receiving a grant on behalf of the *Welcome Back Veterans/UCLA Family Resilience Center of Excellence*. The program will develop, test and disseminate

innovative family and community interventions that decrease the negative effects of deployment for veterans and their families coping with PTSD. It will also provide broader educational outreach to help all veteran families become more resilient against deployment and the effects of trauma. The program will build upon and expand its experience with family and couples-based PTSD intervention, trauma prevention and resilience services to develop a program adapted for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim will support the program through center visits by Angels player alumni and inviting veterans and their families to Angels games.

Welcome Back Veterans is an MLB Charities initiative, in partnership with the McCormick Foundation and the Entertainment Industry Foundation, designed to support returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their family members in helping them make a successful transition to civilian life. The program is supported by MLB Advanced Media and MLB Network. Welcome Back Veterans has awarded approximately \$11 million in grants to non-profit agencies targeting veterans' and their families greatest needs, focusing on treatment and research of PTSD and TBI. This program has been designed to augment existing efforts of the government's Veterans Administration and Department of Defense, thus creating a true private/public partnership.

Funds have been contributed from MLB, including those raised from auctions of game-used products and the donation of sales from Stars & Stripes caps. All MLB Clubs are wearing Stars & Stripes caps for the fourth consecutive year during Independence Day weekend (July 4) as part of Major League Baseball's national fundraising and awareness initiatives for Welcome Back Veterans.

For additional information on Welcome Back Veterans, please go to [www.WelcomeBackVeterans.org](http://www.WelcomeBackVeterans.org).

#### **About MLB Charities**

Major League Baseball Charities is a not-for-profit corporation that provides support to local, national and international tax-exempt organizations to directly conduct or sponsor activities for the promotion of good health, physical education, public safety, medical research, literacy, educational or charitable purposes. In addition to supporting Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), the Official Charity of Major League Baseball, MLB Charities provides support to a number of other national charitable initiatives, including the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the National Urban League and the Jackie Robinson Foundation. The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball pays all administrative expenses for MLB Charities.

#### **About the McCormick Foundation**

The McCormick Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening our free, democratic society by investing in children, communities and country. Through its six grantmaking programs, Cantigny Park and Golf, two museums, and a civic outreach program, the Foundation helps build a more active and engaged citizenry. It was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest charities, with more than \$1 billion in assets.

#### **About the Entertainment Industry Foundation**

The Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF) is the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that serves as the collective philanthropy for the television and film businesses. EIF has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars to support programs addressing critical health, education and social issues.

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