



## Neenah Resident & Youth Go Mentor to participate in Aspire Gala

**18 year old Alex Steward to speak at Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Aspire Gala  
Event will honor Ambassador George W. Haley; Chicago Cubs manager, Joe Maddon;  
and Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Winfield**

**Baltimore, Md.** – In its eleventh year, the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation (CRSF) Aspire Gala has become one of the largest single-day fundraising events in Maryland. In 2014, the Aspire Gala raised \$2.3 million used to help build character and teach critical life lessons to underserved young people residing in America’s most distressed communities, using baseball- and softball-themed programs. The event includes more than 800 attendees with numerous celebrity guests to honor notable figures in business, entertainment and sports.

On Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, CRSF will be honoring **Ambassador George W. Haley**, Major League Baseball manager **Joe Maddon**, and Major League Baseball Hall of Famer **Dave Winfield** for their strong work in making a difference in the lives of others. Each honoree will have the opportunity to pay tribute to the people in their own lives who have inspired and helped guide them to success.

The annual gala raises funds to support the work of CRSF, including the national *Badges for Baseball* program. *Badges for Baseball* is a youth development and mentoring program that pairs youth with law enforcement in a positive way. The program has been implemented by Youth Go in Neenah since 2010. In recognition of the partnership between Youth Go and CRSF, along with the dedication of their program lead, Timothy Chappa, CRSF has asked Alex Steward to share his life story and how *Badges for Baseball* has impacted him.

“We’re thrilled to host Alex and Timothy at our Aspire Gala,” commented Jeffrey Breslin, Vice President of Programs for the CRSF. “Alex represents the hope thousands of young people are provided through their participation in *Badges for Baseball* while Timothy and their partners in law enforcement are shining examples of positive adult mentors.”

“Youth Go is so fortunate to have had the opportunity to develop a relationship with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation over the past five years through offering the Badges for Baseball Program to youth in Neenah and Menasha,” said Kelly Hicks, Executive Director of Youth Go. “We were thrilled when Alex was invited to the Aspire Gala this year to share his Badges for Baseball story. Alex has been involved with Badges for Baseball from year one and has really latched onto the ideals and beliefs of the program. He participated in the program in 2010 when he was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In 2012 and 2013 he volunteered as a “bench coach” to assist Timothy Chappa, Youth Go’s Recreation Coordinator, in working with the youth and in 2014 he was hired as our assistant coach. Alex is now attending Fox Valley Technical College for Criminal Justice and he is someone that all of us at Youth Go are very proud of.”

Receiving the 2015 *Cal, Sr. Award* is **Ambassador George W. Haley**, a distinguished attorney, diplomat and Army Air Force veteran who served under five U.S. presidents. Haley served as one of the architects of the landmark civil rights case, *Brown v. the Board of Education*, and later became the first African American Kansas State Senator. He was appointed Chairman of the Postal Rate Commission by President George Bush and was later named as Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia in West Africa during the Clinton administration, which allowed him to return to his roots and the home of his notable ancestor, Kunta Kinte.

Current Chicago Cubs manager, **Joe Maddon** will receive the *Aspire Award*. As a two-time MLB Manager of the Year (2008, 2011) and World Series Champion (2002), Maddon has become a renowned manager and has played an integral part of numerous organizations including the Anaheim Angels (1996, 1999), Tampa Bay Rays (2006-2014) and Chicago Cubs (2015-present). Throughout his 19-year career, Maddon has managed 1,510 games and posted a .517 winning percentage. Off the field, Maddon heads the Hazelton Integration Project, as a means to unite the diverse cultures of his hometown and provide educational, athletic and cultural opportunities for underprivileged youth in his hometown of Hazelton, Pa.

To be presented with the *Aspire Award* is **Dave Winfield**. Uniquely known as the only athlete in history drafted by four different leagues – the NFL, ABA, NBA and MLB, Winfield went on to become one of the most decorated athletes in baseball history. During his 22-year career, “Mr. May” was a 12-time MLB All-Star, 7-time Gold Glove winner, 6-time Silver Slugger recipient, and World Series Champion (1992). In 2001, Winfield was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Even after his career, Winfield continues to remain connected to the game of baseball, where he has previously served as Executive VP/Sr. Advisor to the San Diego Padres and continues to apply his knowledge and experience of the game through the Dave Winfield Foundation, which provides services to underprivileged youth.

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation uses baseball- and softball-themed programs to help build character and teach critical life lessons to underserved youth residing in America’s most distressed communities. Founded in 2001 by members of the Ripken family in memory of their patriarch Cal, Sr., the Foundation works to create programs that positively impact at-risk youth through active community partnerships with America’s most successful youth service organizations. The Foundation is also designing and building Youth Development Parks, multi-purpose, synthetic surface fields in underserved communities to give kids a clean and safe place to play and learn. The Ripken Foundation has impacted over 800,000 kids nationwide through its Youth Development Park initiative and *Badges for Baseball* programming.

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