

# The Charity Stripe™

Official Newsletter Of The Charity Stripe®  
A 501(c)(3) charitable organization

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## Our Proud Supporters



## Free Throws For Heroes® Raises \$81,250 To Date in inaugural year for Illinois Military Families!

The Charity Stripe® is very proud to announce that the first annual "Free Throws For Heroes®" charitable event raised \$81,250 to date for Illinois military families. Thanks to the passion and participation of 94 Illinois high school basketball teams in 18 of 21 Illinois legislative districts, this program was a huge success that has already far surpassed the \$50,000 first year goal.

Participating high schools, featuring boys and girls freshmen through varsity teams, really stepped up to the line raising an average of \$864 to date per school through pledges for every free throw they made.

The Charity Stripe® will team up with the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs to distribute funds to pre-qualified and pre-approved troops who have been physically and/or emotionally disabled as a result of their service to our country. In addition, funds may also be directed to needy families of our troops who are experiencing financial hardships due to the continued service of their loved ones.

**FREE THROWS  
FOR HEROES®**



Once all money has been collected, The IDVA will work with The Charity Stripe® to identify needy troops and/or their families in or near the communities of each participating school.

It's a great way to ensure that Illinois basketball teams, players and coaches see the benefit of giving back to their military neighbors and families who have given so much for our freedoms.

Funds are expected to be distributed by the end of July.

## Contact The Charity Stripe®

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## Free Throws for Heroes® Scores Big With Illinois Media!

**Over 2 MILLION estimated readers, viewers & listeners!**

The Charity Stripe® extends our sincere appreciation to the following for featuring and supporting our program on your websites and in your media:

- The Illinois High School Association
- Illinois Basketball Coaches Association
- Illinois Athletic Directors Association
- Suburban Basketball Officials Association
- Fox News Chicago
- WGN Radio with David Kaplan
- Talking Sports with Jerry Markbreit
- Community and school newspapers throughout the state

**Thanks for all your special talents and support in helping us deliver "SLAM DUNK" results and sharing such a great cause with your audiences!**



Players and coaches from Reavis High School join Mitch Salzstein of The Charity Stripe® to discuss Free Throws for Heroes® on FoxJox Chicago with host and anchorman, Mike Barz. Reavis raised over \$2,200 for our Illinois military heroes and their families.

# The Charity Stripe™

[www.thecharitystripe.net](http://www.thecharitystripe.net)



## Free Throws For Heroes® Inspires More Than Just Donations!

### Chicagoland Jewish High School & Hinsdale Adventist Academy Team Up For An Even Greater Good!



Chicagoland Jewish High School presents a check for \$636 to Mitch Salzstein, Executive Director of Free Throws For Heroes®.

Like all participating high schools in the Free Throws For Heroes® event, Chicagoland Jewish High Schools and Hinsdale Adventist Academy recognized the importance of their players understanding the importance of using their talents and skills to help Illinois military families in need.

While both schools were naturally very proud of their efforts – Chicagoland Jewish HS raised \$636 and Hinsdale Adventist Academy \$523 in the one day event, that's only part of the story.

According to Rebecca Garrett, Marketing Director of Hinsdale Adventist Academy, "The real story is two teams with different religious beliefs and from different cultures uniting as one common people to give back to others. There is no greater gift and we hope this will inspire other students, teams, schools and communities to participate in such a worthy endeavor."

Tim Cohen, Athletic Director at CJHS, echoed Garrett's sentiments. "Teaming up with Hinsdale Adventists Academy for this Free Throws For Heroes® event helps fulfill our belief in *Tikkun Olam...repairing the world.*" He added, "Two cultures coming together for one heroic goal is such an enriching life lesson for these players as well as young people everywhere."

As Mitch Salzstein, Executive Director of The Charity Stripe® reiterated, "While being heroes to our military heroes is the passion behind Free Throws For Heroes®, I'm so proud that this initiative is also bringing together people from different backgrounds who share one common goal...to unite despite our differences to make a real difference to people in need."



Brandon Garrett, a Hinsdale Adventist Academy senior, sinks a free throw during the Free Throws For Heroes® event.

## Free Throws For Heroes® Experience Hits Home For An Illinois Player



Hampshire High School Sophomore Kelsey Watson certainly had someone in mind when she stepped up to the line to shoot Free Throws For Heroes® – her father, Matt Watson.

Major Watson flies KC 135's and was involved in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and also served in the Medivac unit helping transport injured soldiers to hospitals.

Says Kelsey, "Having the opportunity to do this event is really cool. Not a lot of people my age know what military families endure and especially what they can do to help." Major Watson adds, "Military members and their families greatly appreciate the fact that everybody is willing to help."

We love these stories and look forward to many more. Send us your stories today!

The Charity Stripe®

"Making Free Throws That Make A Difference To American Families In Need"