



December 16, 2009

www.chicagosportsfest.us
Photos Available

Media Contact: Veronica Resa 312-744-5648 office / 312-446-5251 work cell
veronicaresa@cityofchicago.org

Mayor Daley's Chicago Sports Fest at McCormick Place

NEWS ITEM -*Robert L. Satcher, Jr. (pH.d., m.d.) NASA Astronaut to speak at Sports Fest* (see page 2)

The Mayor's Office of Special Events & Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois present Mayor Daley's Chicago Sports Fest, it's all **FREE** and begins Sunday, **December 27-28 at McCormick Place** in Halls A & B (2301 S. Martin Luther King Drive).

"Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois is proud to continue our third year of sponsoring the Mayor's Chicago Sports Fest," said Karen Atwood, president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. "We share Mayor Daley's commitment to health and wellness and believe in investing in local initiatives to help families adopt healthy lifestyle habits. Sports Fest is full of fun, spectacle and physical activity. I encourage everyone to take part in this unique, family-friendly opportunity."

Admission and the interactive zones to the biggest indoor gym are **FREE** with discounted parking in Lot A -\$9. Activities take place daily, 10am – 4pm. **Interactive zones** include golf, climbing walls, football, chess, obstacle course, tot's zone, table tennis, tumbling, badminton, boxing, baseball, fishing ponds, footbag, slides, 40-Yard dash, skateboarding, wrestling and more!

Join us on Sunday (Dec. 27) for Pepsi's "Get Out There and Dance" Party. Learn some moves to **Michael Jackson's Thriller** throughout the day, courtesy of the Chicago Dance Institute, and then get ready to show off your moves during a flash-mob style dance party at 3pm located at the Half-Time stage.

The **Half-Time stage** is the place to be for those who like to be entertained as well as interact with performers and make new friends. On Sunday and Monday, **B96 FM** radio personalities will broadcast live and children can also meet **Radio Disney** characters and personalities as well as marvel at the acrobatics of the Jesse White Tumblers, the sword maneuvers of Medieval Times and the Chi-Town Finest Breakers (see page 2). **The Chicago Sky**, a member of the WNBA, will also be in attendance along with members of your favorite professional teams and their mascots!

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) will host an all-ages chess tournament and there will be instructors on site for beginners. CPS will also host the action-packed Holiday Hoops Basketball boys & girls tournament as well as tennis clinics. The basketball tournament features 8 teams and the tennis zone offers mini interactive tennis clinics for kids. Don't miss the **Harlem Globetrotters** special sports fest noon-time appearance on Monday –Center Court!

Visit a place of zen at Sports Fest --The **Chill Out Zone, programmed by WTTW**, gives kids the opportunity to rest their muscles and exercise some brain power! Area activities include coloring, Kapla Blocks, board games, and reading. Adults and children alike can visit the **Fitness Area** presented by the Mayor's Fitness Council. Certified fitness instructors will lead classes in cardio kickboxing, salsa aerobics, pilates, yoga and more! Sanctioned **tournament** hours vary and include volleyball and floor hockey.

RCN spokesperson and Hall of Famer, Ryne Sandberg, will be at the festival Monday, December 28th from 11am -1pm to give Chicago's very own athletes batting pointers. Please make sure to check out the fast pitching station sponsored by **RCN, Chicago's local Digital TV Internet and Phone** provider. For Special RCN offers visit: rcn.com or call 800.RING.RCN.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) is proud to be the presenting sponsor of Mayor Daley's Chicago Sports Fest. Climb aboard a **BCBSIL CareVan mobile clinic** at the event for a free flu shot. In an effort to promote good health and wellness, BCBSIL has 3 CareVans that travel throughout the state providing immunizations and health screenings to underserved communities. CareVan nurses administered more than 10,000 immunizations and performed hundreds of screenings in 2008.



Help **LifeSource** reach their goal to save 750 lives during this year's sports fest. Each unit of blood collected can save up to three lives. Put your feet up, relax and donate blood while your kids are engaged in other activities – either at the fest or in their booth. When you are done, LifeSource will treat you to a relaxing chair massage. Also, enter a drawing to win a football autographed by the Chicago Bears. All donors receive a free mini-wellness check, which includes, blood pressure, cholesterol screening, hemoglobin (iron), pulse and temperature.

Astronaut **Dr. Satcher**, recently returning from the Space Shuttle Discovery's STS-129 Mission, will be in Chicago on December 28 for an 11:30am appearance at Mayor Daley's Chicago Sports Festival at McCormick Place (Half-Time stage). Dr. Satcher will speak and meet with children about his NASA experience and why it's important to stay physically fit. Atlantis delivered parts to the space station, including a spare gyroscope and the mission featured three spacewalks. STS-129 was the 31st shuttle mission to the station. Media interviews & Media Photo Opp available.

World Sports Chicago returns to Sports Fest with a bigger and better presence than ever. Archery, badminton, fencing, team handball, rowing, judo and wrestling are just some of the expected activities that kids can not only just watch but also try! Olympians and Paralympians will be present to demonstrate, sign autographs and interact with Sports Fest attendees. An Olympian autograph session is scheduled at 2:00pm in the WSC Interactive Zone on 12/27. Also back this year, in partnership with Vancouver 2010 Legacies Now, kids can test their fitness and find a sport that fits them through SportFit. This year WSC will partner to offer tournaments in badminton, wrestling and fencing for local Chicago programs. Sports Fest 2009 marks the 1-year anniversary of the Chicago Paralympic Development Program as a partnership with USA Paralympics and over 13 other partner organizations. Featured this year will be disability sport demonstrations and tournaments in bocceball, disability track and rowing.

Sports Fest activities include: 40-Yard Dash, Floor Hockey, Martial Arts Demos, Acrobatics, Footbag, Pop-a-Shot, Adult Fitness Area, Football, Skate Park, Badminton, Golf Challenge, Table Tennis, Baseball, Gymnastics, Tumbling, Tennis, Boxing, Inflatable Tumbling, Tots Zone, Climbing Walls, Jump Rope, Volleyball, Dancing, Kids Golf Challenge, Wrestling, Fishing Ponds, Obstacle Course and Soccer.

Half-Time Stage Schedule

Sunday, December 27

Monday, December 28

Time	Sunday, December 27	Monday, December 28
10:30 am		Medieval Times
11:00 am	B96 FM Chicago	B96 FM Chicago
11:30 am	Chicago Dance Institute – Thriller Dance Lesson	Dr. ROBERT L. SATCHER, JR. (pH.d., m.d.) NASA Astronaut
Noon	Karate Can-Do! Foundation Traveling Team	Chicago Dance Institute (on stage) The Harlem Globetrotters (Center Crt)
12:30 pm	Chicago Dance Institute Thriller Dance Lesson	Chi-Town Finest Breakers
1:00 pm	Radio Disney	Radio Disney
1:30pm	Radio Disney	Radio Disney
2:00pm	Jesse White Tumbling Team	Jesse White Tumbling Team
2:30pm	Chicago Dance Institute – Thriller Dance Lesson	Chicago Dance Institute
3:00pm	Flash Mob style Dance Party to Michael Jackson's "Thriller"	HEY BOXMAN! Chicago Contortionist
3:30pm	B96 FM Chicago	

Mayor Daley's Chicago Sports Festival is presented by the City of Chicago and Blue Cross and Blue IL (BCBS), and produced by the Mayor's Office of Special Events, McCormick Place, and the Chicago Park District. This event is sponsored in part by the CTA, Brookfield Zoo, Clear, 104.3 Jack FM, Communications Direct, LifeSource, Pepsi-Cola, Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Athletico, Hinckley Springs, LifeSource, Radio Disney AM 1300 Chicago and WTTW 11 Chicago.

With more than 7 million members, BCBS IL (www.bcbsil.com) is the largest health insurance company in Illinois. Started in 1936, BCBS IL is committed to promoting the health and wellness through accessible, cost-effective, quality health care. BCBS IL is a division of Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC), a Mutual Legal Reserve Company. HCSC is an independent licensee of the BCBS Association.