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Officials For Kids Football Give-A-Game In West Michigan

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Sept. 12 - Beginning with football games this Friday (Sept. 14) night, the West Michigan Officials Association will be participating in the Give-A-Game program for Officials For Kids.

Over the next three Fridays, football officials from the West Michigan Officials Association will be asked to donate one of the game fees to Officials For Kids, a charitable initiative of the Michigan High School Athletic Association in conjunction with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The Give-A-Game event is part of the support the WMOA provides for DeVos Children's Hospital for its Children's Burn Camp. Back in June, the Association was a sponsor of a play day in Grand Rapids for visually-impaired youngsters.

At the inception of the Officials For Kids programs, work was centered on fundraising efforts by local officials associations to improve children's health care at Children's Miracle Network Hospitals around the state. The heart of that initiative has been the Give-A-Game program, where members of an officials association donate one night's game fees towards the cause, increasing awareness for the Officials For Kids program while generating support for the Children's Miracle Network.

Fans attending many of the Give-A-Game sites will have the opportunity to make donations to the Children's Miracle Network, with the money going to support the efforts at DeVos Children's Hospital.

The Officials For Kids Program takes on a local focus at each Children's Miracle Network Hospital in the state. In addition to the efforts to benefit DeVos Children's Hospital, Officials For Kids recently launched a program at Beaumont Hospital in Detroit called Referees For Reading, where monies raised help fund a pediatric ward book cart, and officials give of their time to read to children. At Hurley Medical Center in Flint, Officials For Kids donations will go towards Camp REACH, which fights childhood obesity. At Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Officials For Kids has been raising money towards the construction and maintenance of a new Pediatric Emergency Room and Waiting Room.

Officials For Kids began in early 2003 as a small group of mid-Michigan officials dedicated to the future of children's healthcare & the Children's Miracle Network. The ultimate hope for the program is that officials personal & association pledges, along with participation in fundraising events & initiatives, will make Officials for Kids a name synonymous with the continued improvement of children's healthcare across the state.

For more information, visit the Officials For Kids page of the MHSAA Web site – www.officialsforkids.com.

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NOTE – For more information about the West Michigan Officials Association, contact Mike McNeil at mike.mis@sbcglobal.net

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