HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DODGERS’ 2011 COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
It’s easy to see the feats of Dodger players and be mesmerized by their talent and accomplishments. In 2011, Clayton Kershaw became the Dodgers’ first 20-game winner since 1990 and garnered just the 10th Cy Young Award in franchise history. Matt Kemp put together one of the greatest all-around seasons in recent memory, almost becoming the fifth player to enter the illustrious 40-40 club. Andre Ethier came close to history with his 30-game hitting streak, just one short of the record held by all-time great Willie Davis.

But it was their actions far from the big league ballparks that they and other Dodgers touched lives and made an impact in other ways.

Kershaw traveled to the impoverished country of Zambia to help build a school for children, and that prompted him and his wife to launch “Kershaw’s Challenge” with the goal of raising money to build an orphanage. By the end of 2011, they had raised enough to break ground on what is being called “Hope’s Home,” named after a young girl who Ellen Kershaw befriended.

Kemp traveled with the Dodgers Caravan and helped dedicate two of the 10 Dodgers Dreamfields in 2011. He also participated in a holiday toy giveaway and visited young patients at City of Hope. With his ever-present smile, Kemp gave many children throughout the year moments they’ll never forget.

When Ethier was in the throes of his hitting streak, he also visited City of Hope to take part in a ceremony where bone marrow transplant recipients met their donors for the first time in an emotional ceremony. The Dodger right fielder continued a tradition to help feed the homeless at Union Rescue Mission and also hosted kids on a holiday shopping spree.

These rising stars of the game and many of their teammates reached out and touched the lives of so many people throughout the communities surrounding Dodger Stadium. This is why the Dodgers have become a part of Los Angeles’ consciousness, and so giving back to the community that supports the team so well is of paramount importance to the Dodgers. Since baseball is at the heart of what the Dodgers do, just like on a baseball field, the Dodgers Dream Foundation’s efforts are laid out like the bases on a diamond. Each of the four “bases” stands for a different initiative of the Dodgers Dream Foundation.

1st Base: Youth Sports & Recreation

Through their Youth Sports and Recreation initiative, the Dodgers have stab-
lished Dodgers Dreamfields, which built or refurbished 10 baseball and softball fields throughout Los Angeles in 2011, bringing the total number of fields that have been dedicated to 20, with more to follow in the years ahead.

The Dodgers also continued their Dodger Youth Baseball Camps and PLAY clinics, giving youngsters the chance to practice baseball right on the field at Dodger Stadium, while also receiving lessons and pep talks from current and former Dodgers.

2ND BASE: LITERACY AND EDUCATION
The Team 42 Dodger Scholars program is the signature program focused on education, annually awarding 42 college scholarships to minority students selected by the Jackie Robinson Foundation. This program further carries on the legacy of Robinson, a baseball pioneer who once said: “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.”

3RD BASE: HEALTH
The Dodgers Dream Foundation supports a number of non-profit organizations that focus on different health issues, among them genetics, autism, juvenile diabetes, arthritis and heart disease. 2011 marked the fourth year for ThinkCure!, a partnership between the Dodgers, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and City of Hope that was formed to accelerate collaborative research to cure cancer. ThinkCure! Weekend raised more than $350,000.

HOME PLATE: ENVIRONMENT
The Dodgers have introduced “Think Blue, Act Green,” the organization's commitment to helping the environment. In early 2011 the Dodgers worked with Heal the Bay on a cleanup of Santa Monica Beach, as well as working with Councilmember Ed P. Reyes and his constituency on picking up trash along the L.A. River. The Dodgers also recycle thousands of pounds of cardboard, aluminum, glass and plastic that accumulate after home games. Solar-powered scoreboards are now being installed at all Dodgers Dreamfields.

The pages ahead help to tell the story of how the Dodgers’ community efforts are directed to give back to the City of Los Angeles, helping to further connect the Dodgers to the people who support the team year after year. It’s through these continuing efforts that the Dodgers build a winning tradition both on and off the field.
PROMOTING an active lifestyle for young Dodger fans is one of the most important goals of the Dodgers’ community efforts. During the season the field at Dodger Stadium played host to two of the Dodgers’ most prominent programs to promote youth sports: the Dodger Youth Baseball Camp and the Promoting a Lifetime Activity for Youth (PLAY) Clinic.

In separate sessions from July 5-8 and July 25-29 at Dodger Stadium, almost 300 kids from throughout Los Angeles took part in the annual Dodger Youth Baseball Camp, presented by Kaiser Permanente. Boys and girls received instruction on all facets of the game from Dodger coaches and alumni, then put those skills to work by playing games on the field. At the end of every session a current Dodger came to speak with the youngsters and offer advice.

On Aug. 12, the PLAY Clinic saw approximately 100 children from the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy, the Long Beach Community Action Partnership and the Central City Action Committee participate in a special clinic at Dodger Stadium. PLAY is a public awareness campaign of the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society (PBATS) in conjunction with the Taylor Hooton Foundation that promote healthy living and decision making among children in America. Dodger shortstop Dee Gordon, former Dodger “Sweet” Lou Johnson, coaches and members of the training staff also spoke and worked with the kids.
This youngster turned two during a camp game.

(Above): The campers received low fives from Chad Billingsley.

(Left): These young women finished their agility drills on the warning track.

(Above): “Sweet” Lou Johnson offered hitting tips.

(Above): Dodger bench coach Trey Hillman offered pointers to the kids.

(Left): Dee Gordon just barely wins this footrace.
EDUCATION

READ ACROSS AMERICA

THE DODGERS took an active role in the national literacy campaign, “Read Across America,” on March 2 when catcher A.J. Ellis read to a group of students in Arizona during Spring Training. Meanwhile, a slew of Dodger Alumni read to students at schools across Los Angeles.

“Read Across America” is an initiative by the National Education Association and calls on children in every community to celebrate reading annually on March 2, the birthday of children’s author Dr. Seuss. Ellis read a Dr. Seuss book to children at Glendale’s Main Library, not too far from the Dodgers’ Spring Training home at Camelback Ranch — Glendale in Arizona.

Dodger Alumni spread across the Los Angeles area to explain to children the importance of reading. Former Dodger Kenny Landreaux made a big impression on Laguna Nueva School in Commerce.

“This was a dream come true for a lot of them,” said Gabriela Orozco-Gonzalez, a teacher-lead at the kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school.

Orozco-Gonzalez wasn’t mincing words. She said the kids at inner-city Laguna Nueva don’t often get the opportunity to see a ballplayer, past or present, like Landreaux. On top of that, the former Dodger outfielder who grew up in Compton didn’t just read to the kids, he talked to them about his history and how he too went to an inner-city school.

“They were able to relate to him,” said Orozco-Gonzalez. “He just had a really amazing connection to them.”

ON JACKIE ROBINSON DAY, April 15, Dodgers past and present led a discussion at Crenshaw High School about the importance of the groundbreaking Dodger legend.

Inside the school’s gymnasium, Robinson’s former teammate Don Newcombe emceed the event that included former Dodgers Tommy Davis, Maury Wills and “Sweet” Lou Johnson. Matt Kemp, James Loney, Tony Gwynn Jr., Marcus Thames and Crenshaw High alumnus Trayvon Robinson also joined in the event and told the students how Jackie Robinson, who broke baseball’s color barrier on April 15, 1947, opened the door for them.

Newcombe spoke of the injustices Robinson faced and how he overcame them to revolutionize the game and make a mark on American history. He spoke of how Branch Rickey, the Brooklyn Dodgers’ general manager who signed Robinson, told the man just how vital he was to African-Americans.

“You fail and the whole program is scrapped. We need you to be a leader,” Newcombe quoted Rickey. “And Jackie was the leader ladies and gentlemen. I kid you not.”

TEAM THINK BLUE

ON APRIL 26, the Dodgers honored the nine first-place winners of the 2011 Team Think Blue Art and Essay Contest at an awards luncheon at Dodger Stadium with special guest Dodger Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda. Each year the Dodgers, Dodgers Dream Foundation, Kaiser Permanente and the Los Angeles Times in Education join forces for the literacy and education program. More than 200,000 students participated in the Team Think Blue Program, and this year’s winners were from 74th Street Gifted Magnet School, Bassett Street Elementary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Eagle Rock Junior and Senior High School, Wilmington Middle School, Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, Clark Magnet High School and San Gabriel High School.

On April 26, Dodger Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda was the guest speaker at the Team Think Blue Art and Essay Awards Luncheon in the Stadium Club.
JACKIE ROBINSON SCHOLARS

ONE OF THE LASTING legacies of Dodger Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson sits in college classrooms throughout the country. The Jackie Robinson Foundation helps minority students with scholarship opportunities, networking and mentorship for students who might otherwise have a tough time attending college.

Every year, the Dodgers Dream Foundation works in concert with the Jackie Robinson Foundation to fund 42 college scholarships for these students. On Jackie Robinson Day, April 15, two of those Dodger Scholars took part in pregame ceremonies on the day that baseball paid tribute to the baseball pioneer.

“Jackie Robinson means everything. What he went through and achieved and the barriers he broke for me has set me forward and has made my future,” said Dodger scholar Ajwang Rading, a political science major at UCLA. “I can’t thank him enough or this foundation.”

“His motto that ‘Life is not a spectator sport,’ it’s so relevant for many things. I really hold him dear to my heart,” said Daniella Jones, a Dodger Scholar and graduate from the University of Pennsylvania.

Since 2005, the Dodgers Dream Foundation and Jackie Robinson Foundation have partnered in the Team 42 Scholars program. Here is a complete list of all the students who have received scholarships through this program.

| Alexander Aguilar (Ohio Wesleyan) | Cameron Johnson (Cornell) |
| Babatunde Akinloye (UCLA) | Daniella Jones (Pennsylvania) |
| Rachel Aaaddin (UCLA) | Alexander Kado (Minnesota) |
| Andrea Aidana (NYU) | Trent Kemp (UCLA) |
| Dias Alexander (UCLA) | Boramy Kim (Minnesota) |
| Shereese Alexander (UCLA) | Rayana Lewis (UCLA) |
| David Baker (Minnesota) | Aaron Lombard (UCLA) |
| Camila Bedolla (Cornell) | Maltsh Lorenzo (UCLA) |
| Bian Beglari (UCLA) | Adam Love (UCLA) |
| Jasen Bell (Cornell) | Autumn Love (UCLA) |
| Joel Boyd (Brown) | Jonathan Maner (UCLA) |
| Jordan Brown (Cornell) | Taylor Mason (UCLA) |
| Richard Calhoun (UCSB) | Shylene Mata (Cornell) |
| Keziah Calmese (Cornell) | Corey Matthews (UCLA) |
| Bianca Carrion (UCLA) | Pierre Mays (UCLA) |
| Tiffany Chapparo (NYU) | Costner McKenzie (Stanford) |
| Jamel Cole (Cornell) | Marcus Mitchell (Georgia Institute of Technology) |
| Tifhanie Coleman (UCLA) | Olevia Mitchell (Syracuse) |
| Ankilah Davis (Minnesota) | Simon-Noel Ndely (Minnesota) |
| Marshall Davis (Minnesota) | Chinomnso Nnodum (Cornell) |
| Ashley De Vance (UCLA) | Dantawn Nicholson (Cheyney) |
| Miriam Denard (UCLA) | Whitney Nonette (UCLA) |
| Abraham Desta (Minnesota) | Ayantu Omer (Minnesota) |
| Leina Desta (Minnesota) | Charles Onwuka (UCLA) |
| Anthony Diamond (Stanford) | Janae Ousby (UCLA) |
| Asia Dorsey (NYU) | Oluwadamilola Oshinuga (UCLA) |
| Shakinah Douglas (UCLA) | Jade Patterson (Cornell) |
| Calvin Dunn (UCLA) | Randolph Pena-Medina (Rochester) |
| Robin Eggunwe (UCLA) | Steven Peralta (Dartmouth) |
| Christopher Estela (Cornell) | Genevieve Petit Saint (Cornell) |
| Ebreon Farris (UCLA) | Jerome Price (UCLA) |
| Tiffany Fidler (Cornell) | Ajwang Rading (UCLA) |
| Gilbert Francis (Cornell) | Samuel Ramsey (Cornell) |
| Jaime Fuentes (Ohio Wesleyan) | Dominic Rivera (Cornell) |
| Kisa Fulbright (Xavier) | Bryce Robertson (Cornell) |
| Aaron Garcia (NYU) | Nicolette Robinson (UCLA) |
| Iliana Garcia (Rochester) | Diana Ruano (Cornell) |
| Natalia Gil (Cornell) | Sandra Sanchez (NYU) |
| Feven Girmay (UCLA) | Christopher Scott (Minnesota) |
| Andrea Glover (Minnesota) | Choumika Simonis (Cornell) |
| Leslie Grant (UCLA) | Jade Smith (Smith) |
| Allison Green (UCLA) | Julia Smith (Ohio Wesleyan) |
| Keron Greene (UCLA) | Steven Stevenson (UCLA) |
| David Hampton (UC Berkeley) | Alysa Stone (George Washington) |
| Jonathon Harris (NYU) | Nafisa Teague (Minnesota) |
| Matthew Harris (Minnesota) | Martina Trejo (UCLA) |
| Lorna Her Many Horses (Minnesota) | Surafel Tseg (UCLA) |
| Jonathan Ho (Pennsylvania) | Paulina Villanueva (UCLA) |
| Mercedes Hobson (UCLA) | Marques Watson (UCLA) |
| Karen Horton (UCLA) | Sienna Wedderburn (Cornell) |
| Nikkolette Hunter (UCLA) | Pilar Whittaker (UCLA) |
| Brandon Jackson (Minnesota) | Ashley Williams (UCLA) |
| Marianna Jackson (NYU) | Jennifer Williams (UCLA) |
| LeVon James (Cornell) | Justin Williams (UCLA) |
| Briena Johnson (UCLA) | Kenya Wright (Brown) |
ETHIER VISITS CITY OF HOPE

ANDRE ETHIER still had a smile on his face as he made his way into the Dodger clubhouse on April 29, a warm feeling still evident from the event he had just participated in. Ethier, in the middle of a historic hitting streak, spoke to bone marrow recipients and donors at the 35th annual Celebration of Life Bone Marrow Transplant Reunion at City of Hope. City of Hope is one of the partner hospitals for ThinkCure!, the Dodgers’ innovative, community-based non-profit organization that accelerates collaborative research to cure cancers.

Coming into that day, Ethier had a 24-game hitting streak, a streak that eventually settled at 30 games — one short of the franchise record.

When Ethier was introduced to the large group of courageous cancer survivors, generous donors and hard-working doctors and nurses, the streak was mentioned. But Ethier instead talked about how visiting patients at City of Hope in the past has always made him realize how fortunate he is.

“It’s something where sometimes you get caught up and carried away (with baseball). It’s not reality all the time,” said Ethier to the group. “We get the opportunity to come down here to City of Hope and see something where people are really fighting and struggling. It really puts things back in perspective for us.”

Ethier has visited patients at City of Hope in years past as part of the Dodgers Caravan. He said those moments were special.

“Often we walk into rooms and patients are caught off-guard or are a little shy and you are wondering how you might have touched them. Sure enough, (City of Hope’s Dr. Stephen Forman) says within 10 minutes or an hour after you leave the room, you can’t even imagine how much their spirits have been lifted, how much excitement and joy has been brought back into their day when you show up and do this,” said Ethier of the Dodgers’ hospital visits.

The City of Hope reunion brings donors and recipients together, sometimes for the first time, to celebrate life and the gift of life.

“I love all the Dodgers, but I really love Andre,” said Linda Brewster, a cancer survivor from Rancho Cucamonga, who was decked out with her Ethier t-shirt, Dodger cap and earrings. “It makes me cry to see that he cares that much for us — to see us! While he has all this stuff going on in his baseball life. It’s just terrific.”

LASORDA WATCHES WORLD SERIES GAME 1 AT CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES

HALL OF FAME Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda watched the first game of the World Series on Oct. 19 with about 30 young patients at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, an official partner hospital of ThinkCure!.

“The World Series is very special to me,” said Lasorda. “I wanted to make it just as special for these children, share my love for baseball with them and give them a great night.”

In the 20 years Lasorda managed the Dodgers he took his club to the World Series four times (1977, ’78, ’81 and ’88), winning twice (1981 and ’88).

Prior to watching the game, Lasorda and former Dodger first baseman Wes Parker visited hospital patients in their rooms and surprised them with a goody bag, posed for photographs and signed autographs. Lasorda and Parker had messages of encouragement for all of them. They walked into room after room and put smiles on faces.

Lasorda visited one young girl and told her, “When I ask you, ‘How do you feel?’ I want you to say, ‘Great!’”

Bedridden by illness, she barely had the strength to speak. She slightly nodded to Lasorda as her lips curved.

“Look at that pretty smile,” said Lasorda to her.
JANSEN RETURNS TO WHITE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

THE DAY after his visit to White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles on Aug. 9, bracelets rested on a wooden board at the base of Kenley Jansen’s locker. He noted how there were beads on one of the bracelets that spelled out, “Te quiero mucho,” Spanish for: “I love you very much.”

He recalls walking into the hospital, not knowing what to expect. Then he walked into a room, named the “Los Angeles Dodgers Playroom,” and the atmosphere reflected what he felt inside. The kids he saw were timid. They looked up at this giant man walking into their room wearing a Dodger jersey.

He walked around and greeted some ill children, trying to break the ice. They remained shy. Then he walked over to a table with a little girl. She tilted her head slightly, her eyes barely meeting Jansen’s. Then the Dodger rookie relief pitcher asked her what she was doing. She told him she was making bracelets. He asked if he could join her.

“When I got in there at first, I felt a little shy. Everyone got quiet on me. I was like, ‘What do I have to do?’” said Jansen. “Until that little girl made me bracelets. It was pretty awesome.”

Jansen visited White Memorial Hospital that afternoon, hours before the Dodgers played the Philadelphia Phillies. This visit was to put a smile on some kids’ faces. But it was just two weeks before that Jansen was in need of care at the same hospital.

In late July, Jansen was admitted to White Memorial and ended up staying there for three days because of an irregular heartbeat. He said when he initially checked in, there was some fear. But nurses and doctors set his mind at ease.

“The way they treated me and took care of me, they made me laugh and not feel like I was in the hospital,” said Jansen. The Curacao native said it was important to return to the hospital, not just because of the doctors and nurses, but also because of the young patients.

“I know if I go there it’s an idol for them. It’s pretty awesome for them,” said Jansen. “The feeling I had was great. I spent time with them. They started laughing with me, started to feel more comfortable. I saw their days getting better. That’s what I tried to do, go in there and let them know someone besides their parents cares about them.”

At the Campanella Luncheon in February 2011, representatives from the Dodgers, CSUN and the Campanella family came together to honor the late Hall of Famer through this long-term partnership. Pictured here are (front row): Joni Campanella Roan, Brittany Grant (Campanella Scholar), Yumi Sugiyama (Campanella Scholar), Nadine Zuckerman (Campanella Scholar), Joey Huynh (Campanella Scholar), (back row) Dodger VP, Communications Josh Rawitch, Dodger GM Ned Colletti, John Campanella, CSUN Dean, Health and Human Development Sylvia Alva and Kamesha Nabors (Campanella Scholar).

CAMPANELLA SCHOLARSHIPS

THE ROY and Roxie Campanella Physical Therapy Scholarship Endowment is a partnership between the Dodgers Dream Foundation (DDF), California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and the Campanella family, and in 2011 this partnership provided financial aid to five CSUN physical therapy students. Also, an intern from the school, Jesse Young, worked with the Dodgers’ training staff throughout Spring Training. The students receiving scholarships were Brittany Grant, Yumi Sugiyama, Nadine Zuckerman, Joey Huynh and Kamesha Nabors.

Jesse Young, a graduate of CSUN’s physical therapy department, worked with Dodger Head Trainer Stan Conte and his staff during Spring Training 2011.
ENVIRONMENT

THINK BLUE, ACT GREEN
L.A. RIVER, SANTA MONICA BEACH CLEANUPS

THE DODGERS CARAVAN, a two-day effort where current and former Dodger players join Dodger fans in giving back to the Los Angeles Community, touched on a major point of emphasis for the organization in February.

During the caravan, Dodgers past and present, along with eager fans, helped clean up the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Beach over two days. More than 3,500 lbs. of trash were collected at the two sites.

Early in the morning on Feb. 14, an assemblage which included Dodger Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda, Dodger manager Don Mattingly, current Dodgers Andre Ethier and James Loney, Dodger General Manager Ned Colletti, and former Dodgers Bobby Castillo, Tommy Davis, Kenny Landreaux, Rudy Law and Dodger broadcaster Steve Lyons in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilman Ed P. Reyes, cleaned up the banks of the Los Angeles River along with 250 fans.

“There’s nothing worse than the sight of random trash on the side of the road or a river,” said Ethier while he filled up bags with garbage.

On the second day, Dodgers Rafael Furcal, Matt Kemp, Tony Gwyn Jr., Jay Gibbons and Gabe Kapler, former Dodgers Fernando Valenzuela, Ron Cey, Steve Garvey, Shawn Green, Derrel Thomas, “Sweet” Lou Johnson, Don Newcombe and Dodger broadcaster Charley Steiner, in partnership with Heal the Bay, picked up trash off the beach in Santa Monica with a pack of fans.
“Any day you get to walk around and hang out and meet your fans, it’s a great day,” said Andre Ethier, here looking over these youngsters’ school projects at Thomas Starr King Middle School.

Dodger great Shawn Green pitched in with helping to clean up the beach in Santa Monica.

“I’m not going to lie, I think I’ve hit with some gloves like these before,” said James Loney after helping pick up trash along the L.A. River.
LT. VINCENT GARCIA looked around and could hardly believe what he was seeing. He was standing on the grass at Dodger Stadium in his Army fatigues, soaking in the pregame atmosphere on the night of June 24.

Just a few months before he’d been in Iraq with his platoon, the 40-year-old father of five was serving his country when he started to have some symptoms that told him something might be wrong. When he saw the military doctors, he found out he had cancer. As tickets home go, this was not the one he expected or wanted, though he did find a positive light.

“If having cancer is lucky, this is the best one to have,” said Garcia. “I have Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, so it’s 100 percent curable. It’s painful. It’s brutal. You have to deal with all these side effects from the drugs, but I’m doing all right. I’m happy to be here.”

By “here” Garcia meant the Fourth Annual ThinkCure! Weekend, when for three days Dodger fans were encouraged to donate money to raise funds in the fight against cancer. A partnership between the Dodgers, City of Hope and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, ThinkCure! funds collaborative cancer research in hopes of finding cures for patients just like Garcia.

In May, the lieutenant started to receive treatments at City of Hope, and that led to him being chosen as the Veteran of the Game for the first night of ThinkCure! Weekend. He watched intently as 25 physicians and researchers from the two partner hospitals walked in from center field to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. He saw a familiar face in the lineup of people engaged in the fight against cancer.

“My doctor, Dr. Leslie Popplewell, was out there throwing out the first pitch,” said Garcia. “It was great seeing them out there being honored. It’s a thankless job. They do so much. They’re underappreciated by those who don’t...
know what they do, until it hits close to home and you really value what they do."

Garcia was one of many people who shared their tales of fighting cancer during ThinkCure! Weekend on June 24-26. Current and former Dodger players took part in the telethon on Prime Ticket, features on KCAL9/CBS2 and also on the team’s radio broadcaster partner, KABC, as well as on KLOS and KTNQ. Many people made donations or bid on silent auction items at thinkcure.org. Some fans even texted in donations. Many people shared their tales of losing loved ones to cancer. Some told the joyous stories of being able to fight back cancer and come out healthy.

It’s these stories that City of Hope’s Dr. Stephen Forman and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles’ Dr. Stuart Siegel would like to see told many more times over in the future. Dr. Forman and Dr. Siegel oversee the innovative cancer research being conducted at their respective hospitals with funds coming directly from ThinkCure! To date, more than $1 million has been donated to fund different types of cancer research. This past ThinkCure! Weekend raised nearly $350,000.

“I’m very emotionally attached to this, first because I’m a Dodger fan,” said Dr. Forman. “This natural partnership between the Dodgers and our hospitals has been so perfect for us. We take care of people who go to Dodger games. Having started from nothing and having it grow into these weekends that raise money to support our investigators who develop therapies that turn into hopefully treatments and cures for patients is what this is all about."

Throughout the weekend children and adults were honored before the games. One of the highlights was watching children who had been patients at the two partner hospitals running onto the field with the Dodgers at the start of the game.

“It’s really emotional to see those kids out there on the field,” said Dr. Siegel. “It really tells the whole story of what cancer research is all about. It’s about research scientists and the technicians and the nurses and the patients and the doctors. That’s the team that really makes this research possible. It also allows us to take this research and go and show that it can benefit and extend lives, and even cure patients. The patients have contributed to our ability to try new research and ideas to see if they work. And if they work they will then be able to benefit literally tens of thousands of people across the world who are facing these cancers. It’s really exciting to see that all come together in one place.”

One of those patients is Garcia. As of ThinkCure! Weekend, he’d received three of his prescribed eight treatments for his condition. Everything was going according to plan, and he remained hopeful about recovering fully so he can return to his battalion. On the night that he would utter “It’s time for Dodger Baseball” before the game, he pondered how the fight against cancer was being played out on a baseball field.

“A lot of organizations have charities, but this is one that affects almost every family in the country,” said Garcia. “The statistics are amazing how many people have cancer. It’s great to know that an organization that I really love – and I’m a huge Dodger fan – to know that they’re helping find a cure is great.”

Tony Gwynn Jr. shook hands with City of Hope’s Dr. Stephen Forman.
WHILE SO MUCH focus and attention is on the field at Dodger Stadium, it’s other fields where the organization made impacts of a different kind in 2011, when 10 Dodgers Dreamfields were unveiled — the hard work of the Dodgers Dream Foundation, the LA84 Foundation and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks coming to fruition.

New life was breathed into fields of play, which, for the most part, had been previously underserved. These deserving fields received improvements such as upgrades to backstops, the addition of roofs over the dugouts, bleacher and bench upgrades, irrigation improvements, re-grading to insure smooth and consistent playing surfaces and renovation of field turf or, where necessary, installation of new sod. Solar-powered scoreboards, with the tag line “Think Blue, Act Green,” were also put in place.

Each unveiling was a celebration. Dignitaries, including city leaders and past and present Dodgers, attended the Dreamfield ceremonies. The kicker, for the youth the fields will benefit, was the Dodgers conducted clinics with the children at each unveiling.

Dodgers Matt Kemp, Dee Gordon, Javy Guerra, Kenley Jansen, Rafael Furcal, Matt Kemp, Tony Gwynn Jr., Jay Gibbons and Gabe Kapler all interacted with children and coached them on the fundamentals of the game. Former Dodgers like Don Newcombe, Fernando Valenzuela, Ron Cey, Steve Garvey, Rick Monday, Maury Wills, “Sweet” Lou Johnson, Tommy Davis, Bobby Castillo, Kenny Landreaux, Derrel Thomas, Lee Lacy, Wes Parker, Al Downing, Bill Russell, Steve Yeager and Dennis Powell all participated in ceremonies during the year as well.

New Dreamfields were dedicated at Northridge Recreation Center (Feb. 15), Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center (April 2), Pecan Recreation Center (May 14), Lemon Grove Recreation Center (June 11), Pan Pacific Park (July 21), Valley Plaza Park (Aug. 13), Mona Park (Nov. 14), two at Ritchie Valens Recreation Center (Nov. 19) and Toberman Recreation Center (Dec. 19).
Matt Kemp helps this kid take some swings off a tee at the new Dodgers Dreamfield at Northridge Recreation Center.

Fernando Valenzuela signs autographs for kids at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center.
Dee Gordon instructs kids on getting out of the batter’s box quickly at Valley Plaza Park.

Matt Kemp spoke to youngsters about following their dreams at Mona Park.

Javy Guerra offered instruction to youngsters at Pan Pacific Park in Los Angeles.

Dodger reliever Kenley Jansen points out the target for this young girl during a pitching lesson at Pecan Recreation Center in Boyle Heights.
Bobby Castillo watched a different type of pitching at the Ritchie Valens Recreation Center.

The dedication of the Dodgers Dreamfield at Ritchie Valens Recreation Center brought together Little Leaguers with local leaders and members of the Dodger family.

Two-time batting champ Tommy Davis watched and offered some tips during a hitting session.

Bobby Castillo watched a different type of pitching at the Ritchie Valens Recreation Center.
FOR THE PAST eight seasons, Dodger players, coaches, legends and other members of the Dodger family have shown the city of Los Angeles just how dedicated they are to helping the community with the annual Dodgers Caravan, which kicked off on Feb. 14 and concluded with a significant finale the next day — the dedication of the 10th Dodgers Dreamfield.

"By seeing our players and manager out here, it’s indicative that they’re doing something for the community," Dodger Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda said. "Our owner, Frank McCourt, he’s always been a community-minded man. I remember the first time he came here, his first speech was, ‘Let’s get involved with the community.’"

The first day featured Lasorda, Dodger manager Don Mattingly, Dodger players Andre Ethier and James Loney, Dodger General Manager Ned Colletti, and former Dodgers Bobby Castillo, Tommy Davis, Kenny Landreaux, Rudy Law and Dodger broadcaster Steve Lyons all getting involved in helping the community.

The group cleaned up the Los Angeles River, paid a visit to USC University Hospital — thanking public health workers for their dedication to health care and research — and visited students at Thomas Starr King Middle School as part of a partnership with LACER (Literacy, Arts, Culture, Education and Recreation), a longstanding Dodger community partner, which provides after-school activi-
ties to underserved middle and high school youth. The Dodgers joined the LAGER youth in playground activities and gardening.

Day two featured a different group — Dodgers Matt Kemp, Rafael Furcal, Tony Gwynn Jr., Jay Gibbons and Gabe Kapler, former Dodgers Fernando Valenzuela, Ron Cey, Steve Garvey, Shawn Green, Derrel Thomas, “Sweet” Lou Johnson, Don Newcombe and Dodger broadcaster Charley Steiner.

The Dodgers began the day at Los Angeles Fire Department, Station 3. An assembly of organizations, including the Dodgers Dream Foundation, the Los Angeles Fire Department and Los Bomberos — a Los Angeles-based non-profit comprised of firefighters dedicated to community service — came together to donate a fire truck to Furcal’s home city of Loma De Cabrera in the Dominican Republic.

The second day also featured cleanup as the Dodgers, in partnership with Heal the Bay, picked up trash off the beach in Santa Monica with a pack of fans.

From there, the Dodgers visited West Valley Los Angeles Police Department in Reseda. They ate lunch with police officers and were given demonstrations on the use of force.

They took a short trip from there to Taft High School in Woodland Hills to give advice to Taft’s baseball and softball teams.

The caravan wrapped up in Northridge at the Northridge Recreation Center. McCourt joined the team for the dedication of the Dodgers Dreamfield.

Gwynn, a first-year Dodger, summed up what the caravan was all about.

“Long day, but it was well worth it,” said the outfielder. “We were able to donate a fire truck, able to go hang out with the police, able to talk to some kids at Taft and finished the day with these youngsters in their new beautiful baseball field. All in all, it was a fantastic day.”
FOR THE FIFTH YEAR in a row Fernando Valenzuela and Chad Billingsley participated in the Dodgers Dream Foundation Charity Golf Invitational. In its 10th incarnation, the event took place at picturesque Trump National Golf Club in Rancho Palos Verdes on June 16. Valenzuela and Billingsley were among the many representatives of the Dodger organization, joined by Rick Monday, Billy Ashley, Jimmy Campanis, Bobby Castillo, Tommy Davis, Al Downing, Al Ferrara, “Sweet” Lou Johnson, Lee Lacy, Rudy Law, Tim Leary, Bill Russell, Dave Stewart, Derrel Thomas, Steve Yeager, Bob Welch and Todd Zeile. Broadcasters Jim Hill and Steve Lyons also played, as did Olympic Gold Medalist Al Joyner.

Even though the event proved to be a great time for all the participants, helping young people was still top of mind. The event raised more than $100,000 for the Dodgers Dream Foundation.

“It’s very enjoyable,” said Billingsley. “I love playing golf, but I’m not very good at it. To be around great people and be a part of something great makes you feel a lot better. It’s definitely for a great cause and a good thing to be a part of. Anything I can do to help.”

The question was posed whether it was more important to play well and win or raise funds for charity.

“If we could do both, it would be the best,” said Valenzuela. “To win and have a good time, but most importantly it’s to help the Dodgers Dream Foundation. They help build baseball fields for kids. That’s such an important thing for the youth to have somewhere to practice and play. That’s the reason we’re here, to help as much as we can for this program.”
MARCOS VARGAS was feeling pain in his back the morning of Aug. 11. That just so happened to be the same day of the State Farm Dodgers Dream Foundation Bowling Extravaganza, hosted by Dodger first baseman James Loney at Lucky Strikes Lanes at L.A. LIVE.

Marcos, 13, has spent his entire life being treated at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. On this day he was one of the hospital’s invited guests for the bowling event, and he was set to bowl in a lane dedicated to children being treated at the hospital. But that pain in his back persisted until he arrived at the event.

That’s when he saw Loney and several of his Dodger teammates at the event. Then Marcos saw that Dee Gordon, nursing an injured right shoulder that relegated him to bowling lefty, was bowling in his lane. Marcos asked Gordon for his autograph, but the Dodger shortstop said he would do so on one condition: Gordon asked Marcos for his autograph.

Flattered, Marcos quickly signed Gordon’s bowling jersey, and the youngster found out that the back pain he’d been feeling earlier was gone. Excitement had replaced the pain.

“I wasn’t expecting it,” said Marcos. “It felt very cool. I said it was OK if he asked me for anything.”

“It almost brings a tear to your eye to bring that type of joy into someone’s life,” said Gordon. “Hearing him talk about his back pain, I feel bad that that’s happening to him. But for me to take a few hours out of the day and make him feel better, that’s all I can do.”

Sarah Marquez, 14, has also been treated at CHLA since she was an infant. With an ever-present smile, she could hardly contain her excitement bowling with the Dodgers. She was hoping to get Matt Kemp’s autograph, and when the kids and staff members at CHLA were lining up for a group photo, Sarah wasn’t in the picture. She had found Kemp, and was posing for a picture with the Dodgers’ All-Star center fielder.

For Sarah, having a fun night out like this was quite special for her.

“It’s really exciting,” said Sarah. “When I’m in the hospital, I don’t think of this at all because I’m just not having fun. But once I come out here, I just really forget about that. I don’t think of myself being in the hospital at all.”

It’s wanting to give young people like Marcos and Sarah a special night that is one of the highlights of the annual bowling event. Loney, who has made many visits to CHLA and other local hospitals, has hosted this event for four straight years. Interacting with the kids from the hospital and fans who bought lanes for the event, the large contingent of Dodgers was out in force for this event. Loney, Kemp, Gordon, Clayton Kershaw, Josh Lindblom, Kenley Jansen, Jamey Carroll, Aaron Miles, Trent Oeltjen, Javy Guerra, Don Mattingly, Ken Howell, Rick Honeycutt and Trey Hillman all bowled with the fans.

The Dodger players took advantage of the event, bowling and bonding with fans and the youngsters from CHLA. But at the same time, they were also doing something for others. All proceeds from the event benefited the Dodgers Dream Foundation.
PLAYER PROGRAMS

LONEY’S LOUNGE

IT’S A RARE opportunity to play Mario Kart, Rock Band and Wii Baseball with a Major Leaguer, but James Loney has made it happen regularly. And he’s brought some friends along to help him out.

For the fourth consecutive season, Loney hosted the Loney’s Lounge Video Game Party at Dodger Stadium. Loney invited a group of kids from Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) Los Angeles for the Aug. 28 event.

Loney is an alumnus of RBI Houston who has given back to the program the last four years through his Loney’s Lounge initiative, which invites kids to catch a game and meet him on the field. During the season Loney also invites children and adults affected by ALS and Muscular Dystrophy to Dodger games and meets with them during batting practice. The annual video game party allows kids to play and mingle with Dodgers after catching a game at Dodger Stadium, and this year Loney was joined by teammates Clayton Kershaw, Javy Guerra and Kenley Jansen.

“No matter where you’re coming from, to come to a ballpark and get to hang out with some players, I know I would have loved to do that as a kid,” said Kershaw. “It’s just fun.”

Loney acknowledged how deserving the kids were. Back in the day, he was just like them.

“It’s a great program for these kids to be out here and get this experience at such a young age. And the program itself is good,” he said.

(Above): Loney and this youngster belt out some high notes.

(Right): Kershaw played Wii Baseball with these youngsters.

James Loney and Clayton Kershaw were joined by youngsters from RBI – Los Angeles at the Loney’s Lounge Video Game Party on Aug. 28.

With Loney on vocals and Kershaw on the drums, the Dodgers rocked the house with the RBI youngsters.
FIVE YEARS AGO, when he first began playing for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Andre Ethier walked by the Union Rescue Mission, which provides shelter, food and helps people get off skid row. He knew soon thereafter that he wanted to help out.

“I lived in downtown L.A. for my first three seasons,” said Ethier. “I got a chance to see first-hand what this was all about, what’s going on with the poverty and the homeless people down here. I came to the Dodgers and said, ‘How can I make more awareness and lend my hand to hopefully help out?’”

On June 24, Ethier showed up to help cook Dodger Dogs, donated by Farmer John, and served food to the dozens of guests at the mission that day. This has been a tradition, said Union Rescue Mission CEO Andy Bales, since Ethier’s rookie season when he walked into the building one day and started to help cook food.

“It always encourages me to have Andre take the time to come out and visit,” said Bales. “It really means a ton to our guests. It lights up their day and gives them hope and they get to meet a caring, loving guy who’s well known and really lifts the spirits of our guests.”

For Ethier, he’s just trying to make a difference in the part of the city that he once called home during the season.

“You see what goes on here,” said Ethier. “Sometimes, you can make a big impact immediately right around you, and that’s what we are trying to do here – make a big impact immediately around us. This is not too far from Dodger Stadium and everyone might think poverty is not in this country. Well, it’s going on right in front of our eyes here.”
PLAYER PROGRAMS

CHAD’S CHAMPS

ON JUNE 20, Chad Billingsley visited young patients at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA. The Dodger right-hander has now visited the hospital each of the four years in which he has hosted the program Chad’s Champs. As another part of the program several groups of children who are patients at the hospital visit Dodger Stadium and meet Billingsley before the game.

TED’S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

ON JUNE 18, Ted Lilly invited a group of young arthritis patients, their families, nurses and care managers from Children’s Hospital Central California in Madera and Bakersfield, in coordination with the Arthritis Foundation.
KEMP’S KIDS

MATT KEMP hosted a group of inner-city children from a Better L.A. before the June 20 game as part of his community initiative Kemp’s Kids.

AMIGOS DE FERNANDO

FOR THE ninth straight year, legendary Dodger Fernando Valenzuela hosted Amigos de Fernando, where he hosted groups like PADRES Contra el Cáncer, pictured here with Valenzuela on Sept. 16. Several groups visited Valenzuela at Dodger Stadium throughout the season, with each person receiving a T-shirt and getting to watch batting practice and receiving an autograph from the Dodger great.
ROBERTO CLEMENTE AWARD NOMINEE: CLAYTON KERSHAW

DODGER LEFT-HANDEr Clayton Kershaw was a vital member of the 2011 Dodgers. But in 2011, Kershaw was also a vital member of the community — a worldwide community.

In September, the Dodger ace and Cy Young Award winner was named the Dodgers’ nominee for the prestigious 2011 Roberto Clemente Award, which recognizes a Major League Baseball player who best represents the game of baseball through positive contributions on and off the field, including sportsmanship and community involvement.

Kershaw’s efforts spread across the globe in 2011 from Los Angeles to a village in the African nation of Zambia.

“It’s a huge honor,” said Kershaw. “I’m thankful the Dodgers recognized me for it, and more importantly I’m trying to get the word out on ‘Kershaw’s Challenge,’ trying to raise support and awareness over there and hopefully get the cause more notoriety.”

“Kershaw’s Challenge” is a charitable effort the 23-year-old established in conjunction with Arise Africa with the goal of building an orphanage in the Zambian village of Lusaka. Kershaw and his wife Ellen, along with a group of other Arise Africa volunteers, visited Zambia in the offseason and helped build a school in the impoverished village. He chose to keep doing more during the season, thus he set up Kershaw’s Challenge and raised more than $100,000 to break ground and begin building Hope’s Home, an orphanage in Lusaka.

Kershaw has also been active in participating in Dodgers Dream Foundation Youth Baseball Camp and took part in the Loney’s Lounge video game party at Dodger Stadium.

In addition, Kershaw acted to help families in need of disaster relief following the tsunami in Japan, the tornadoes that devastated the Southeast and Missouri. Following each of these natural disasters, Kershaw and several of his teammates signed autographs to raise money for people in need of shelter, supplies or medical care.

“You don’t always do it for the recognition, but when the Dodgers recognize me for this it’s not all about on-field performance up here,” said Kershaw. “Off the field stuff matters, too.”
SOUTHEAST U.S. TORNADO RELIEF

IN RESPONSE to devastating tornado damage that destroyed many homes throughout the southern states, Dodgers Matt Guerrier and Lance Cormier helped organize autograph signings with their teammates to raise money for the relief efforts. Jonathan Broxton, Rick Honeycutt, Marcus Thames, Clayton Kershaw, Chad Billingsley, Blake Hawksworth, Jon Garland, Hiroki Kuroda, Tony Gwynn, manager Don Mattingly and Hall of Fame Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda joined in the efforts. Guerrier, Honeycutt, Thames and Cormier all live in that region during the offseason.

“Just to give back to the community there, they've been behind me a lot, they've supported me through my whole career, even growing up,” said Elbert. “It's sad because there's a lot of people without homes and businesses that are done and people who died from this. The least I could do is try to do something.”

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

WHEN A MAGNITUDE 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck Japan on March 11, causing severe damage and loss of life, the Dodgers made quick efforts to contribute to the relief fund.

The Dodgers hosted events to help with the relief efforts on March 15 at Dodger Stadium and on March 19 at Camelback Ranch – Glendale. Dodger pitcher Hiroki Kuroda asked his teammates if they would take part in an autograph signing, and most took part. Kuroda also made a substantial donation to the relief efforts.

“This is the least I can do,” said Kuroda. “I can’t do anything about the people who died in this tragedy, but for the survivors, maybe this can help them get on with their lives and have something to look forward to.”

JOPLIN TORNADO RELIEF

ON MAY 29, the Dodgers, led by relief pitcher Scott Elbert, raised money for the victims of the May 22 tornado in Joplin, Mo.

The tornado, which ripped through homes and businesses at 200 MPH, caused massive destruction and claimed the lives of more than 150 people. Elbert was born in Joplin and still has family in the area.

Elbert helped organize an autograph signing on May 29 in the parking lot at Dodger Stadium. Fans made donations to receive an autograph from Elbert and fellow pitchers Chad Billingsley, Ted Lilly, Hiroki Kuroda, Matt Guerrier, Rubby De La Rosa, Ramon Troncoso, Mike MacDougall and Javy Guerra.

“Just to give back to the community there, they’ve been behind me a lot, they’ve supported me through my whole career, even growing up,” said Elbert. “It's sad because there's a lot of people without homes and businesses that are done and people who died from this. The least I could do is try to do something.”

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CHILDREN’S HOLIDAY PARTY

DURING THE SEASON OF GIVING, the Dodgers provided some lasting memories for approximately 300 local school children during the annual Children’s Holiday Party on Dec. 8 at Dodger Stadium.

Kids from local schools and organizations, including Alexandria Elementary School, the Al Wooten Jr. Heritage Center, Albion Street Elementary School, Betty Plasencia Elementary School, Castelar Elementary School, Logan Street Elementary School, Solano Avenue Elementary School (the Dodgers’ Adopt-a-School partner) and Tom Bradley Elementary School, celebrated the holidays with Dodger Alumni and Santa Claus in the Stadium Club at Dodger Stadium.

“Baseball seems to bring out the little kid inside everybody,” said former Dodger Tim Leary. “Christmas is really for the kids, and Dodger Stadium, there’s not a better place to be for me.”

Children were treated to carnival games and a visit from Santa Claus, who introduced former Dodger pitcher Darren Dreifort to read “The Polar Express” to the kids. The children walked away with a Dodger cap and a goodie bag that included a new pair of sneakers, provided by A Foundation for Kids, and other gifts. They also walked away with giant smiles, befitting of the season. But it wasn’t just the kids who were glowing from the experience.

“We love it. It’s something we look forward to every year,” said former Dodger Lee Lacy of the party. “We’re making a lot of kids happy. I love their smiles.”

LONEY VISITS CHLA ON CHRISTMAS EVE

ON DEC. 24, James Loney teamed up with actress Shannon Elizabeth to visit young patients at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Along with Santa Claus, Loney and Elizabeth delivered presents to the youngsters and spread some cheer on Christmas Eve.

THANKSGIVING TURKEY GIVEAWAY

THE DODGERS and the Dodgers Dream Foundation continued their tradition of providing for families for Thanksgiving. On Nov. 14, Dodger Alumni Bobby Castillo and “Sweet” Lou Johnson along with volunteers helped distribute a complimentary turkey, fixings and reusable bags to 600 pre-selected families at Dodger Stadium during the Seventh Annual Community Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway.

The Dodgers partnered with Ralphs/Food 4 Less, Los Angeles City Councilmembers Ed P. Reyes, Eric Garcetti, California State Senator Kevin De León, the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council (GEPENC), the Echo Park Improvement Association (EPIA) and the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP) for the giveaway.

“I look at it like this, when they come see us play they’re giving us their time. This is our way for the Dodgers to give back to those in need,” said Johnson. “For me to have an opportunity to be part of this every year is an honor.”
KEMP VISITS CITY OF HOPE AND SWEET ALICE’S ANNUAL KIDS CHRISTMAS TOY GIVEAWAY

ON DEC. 14, Dodger All-Star outfielder Matt Kemp lent a hand to community organizer Sweet Alice Harris for her Sweet Alice’s Annual Kids Christmas Toy Giveaway in Watts. The next day, Kemp visited the pediatric floor of City of Hope, one of the Dodgers’ partner hospitals in the team’s official charity, ThinkCure!

“Christmas time is a special time. The most exciting time in a kid’s life is Christmas, and to see the smiles on their faces and come and hang out with them is always a good thing to do,” said Kemp at the Sweet Alice event.

Sweet Alice has been giving back to the Watts community for the past 25 years. Approximately 300 children were at this year’s Christmas toy giveaway and each child received a Dodger cap personally from Kemp, who thanked the kids for allowing him to be part of the event.

“He came, and for that we’re grateful,” said Sweet Alice. “For that the kids are going to be grateful. When they see him on TV they’re going to say, ‘I know him. He was at the party for us.’ This is a merry, merry Christmas for us. That’s for sure.”

HOLIDAY HAM GIVEAWAY

IN THE POURING RAIN ON DECS. 12, Dodger players of the past, Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda and several volunteers handed out dinners as part of the Dodgers Dream Foundation’s Seventh Annual Holiday Ham Giveaway.

In partnership with Farmer John, Ralph’s Food 4 Less, Los Angeles City Councilmembers Ed P. Reyes, Eric Garcetti, California State Assemblymember Gil Cedillo, the Citizen’s Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCEP), Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council (GEPENC) and the Echo Park Improvement Association (EPIA), the Dodgers Dream Foundation distributed 400 hams, fixings and reusable bags to local families in need.

“We’re trying to give people something for Christmas they really appreciate and need,” said Lasorda, who along with the other volunteers enthusiastically loaded package after package into thankful families’ vehicles.

ETHIER’S SHOPPING SPREE

FOR 10 KIDS, Dodger All-Star right fielder Andre Ethier was more than a host for a holiday shopping spree on Dec. 13 at Best Buy in Burbank. He was their personal shopping assistant. Ethier led a holiday shopping trip for 10 pre-selected children from the Expo Center, Five Acres, Pacific Lodge Youth Center and Central City Action Committee organizations. Each child received $500 to spend courtesy of Ethier, and gifts provided by the Dodgers and other sponsors.

“It’s a really great experience,” said one of the participants, Jonathan Padilla. “Something that would happen once in a lifetime, and I’m here.”

Ethier flew into Los Angeles for the day from his home in Arizona specifically to bring joy to these 10 kids. He met with them, a giant smile on his face, at the back of the store and instructed them that they had $500 to spend. Then he walked with the kids throughout the store, engaging them in conversations, finding electronics for them and recommending DVDs.

“Sometimes some kids don’t have the best opportunities to have the best Christmas or have the best stuff underneath their tree,” said Ethier. “I thought this was a great opportunity to get some kids out here and get a jumpstart to the holidays.

“This lets you see it from a different perspective and I guess enjoy some of the little things I take for granted or other people take for granted.”
WHEN SIX PEOPLE lost their lives and eight others were wounded, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, in a shooting spree in Tucson, Ariz. on Jan. 8, it affected a nation.

Christina-Taylor Green, the 9-year-old daughter of Dodger National Crosschecker John Green, was one of the six people who lost her life in the horrific incident.

Christina was a bright little girl. She was born on Sept. 11, 2001, one of 50 9/11 babies (one from each state) included in the book Faces of Hope, by Christine Naman. She was a good speaker and the only girl on her Little League team. She was also the granddaughter of longtime Major League manager Dallas Green.

On March 25, the Dodgers played the Arizona Diamondbacks at Kino Veterans Memorial Stadium in Tucson as a benefit for the Tucson Together Fund, which is the only officially sanctioned fund established to assist victims, families and witnesses of the Jan. 8 tragedy. The game was a sellout.

Dodger right fielder Andre Ethier, a native Arizonan, said this benefit was of great importance for the Dodgers.

“I just think it’s important to go down there and, first of all, support a fellow Dodger who works hard for this organization and support him through a tough time,” said Ethier. “I also just wanted to help out after what went on in Tucson. It is part of the state I grew up in and live in, so it’s important to help.”

The Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks are partnering on the renovation of a Little League field in the Oro Valley/Tucson area, and it will be dedicated to the memory of Christina-Taylor Green. The field is set to be dedicated in 2012.
NOWHERE IN THE LETTER did it mention that Sgt. Allan Michaels loved the Dodgers or was a baseball fan. It just spoke of a humble man, a wounded warrior who deserved the honor of being “Veteran of the Game” at Dodger Stadium. Stephanie Michaels, the Marine’s wife, wrote the letter.

She closed the letter by writing: “He has not once complained about his injury, and his strength and determination amazed me daily. I truly feel he is a hero and deserves to be honored. My husband is a very modest man. He does not feel he is a hero in any way, just a man who loves his job, country and was simply doing his job to help protect America.”

A little more than a month after the letter was written, Dodger alumnus Kenny Landreaux made the trek from Dodger Stadium to Camp Pendleton and showed up at the Michaels’ home to inform Sgt. Michaels that he was going to be honored as Veteran of the Game, which included the distinction of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch on July 4.

The Marine, who had twice seen action in Iraq, was stationed in Afghanistan on Nov. 9, 2010. While he was in Sangin, a south-central town in the war-torn country, on foot patrol, Sgt. Michaels stepped on an IED (Improvised Explosive Device). The explosion shattered his heel and cut deeply into his right leg. His squad carried him to safety and he was later airlifted to a hospital. He underwent surgery to save the leg — his tibia, fibula, ankle and ankle joint were also shattered. Multiple surgeries followed. A doctor told him that there was a 50 percent chance that he could lose the leg if the last surgery failed. After three months of bed rest, Sgt. Michaels was able to put slight pressure on the leg. After physical therapy and a long road to recovery, he is able to walk — mostly with the assistance of a cane. His condition continues to improve.

Landreaux heard the story and saw the large scar on the front part of Sgt. Michaels’ ankle. Knowing he couldn’t put much pressure on the foot, he cautioned him about the first pitch, adding that there would be tens of thousands of people at Dodger Stadium watching.

“I’m pretty good at coming up clutch,” said Sgt. Michaels.

A couple weeks after the surprise visit by Landreaux, Sgt. Michaels and his family stood on the field at Dodger Stadium. A giant flag was unfurled in the outfield and U.S. Coast Guard Second Class Machinery Technician Mike Dalager sang the national anthem. Then Sgt. Michaels walked over to the first base line. His story was told on the DodgerVision screen by Dodger broadcaster Rick Monday, whose rescue of an American flag at Dodger Stadium on April 25, 1976 from flag burners is seen as one of baseball’s most patriotic acts. Sgt. Michaels, assisted by a cane, walked to the mound, then dropped the cane on the dirt. Under his own strength, he stepped to the rubber, looked in and threw a perfect strike.

“Wow” was the first word out of Sgt. Michaels’ mouth after delivering the first pitch.

Before that pitch, though, he said something profound.

“It’s never about me or anybody honoring me,” he said. “The heroes are the people who didn’t get to come home.”
HONORARY BAT GIRL

UPLAND RESIDENT Alicia Manzur said her mother, Julia, would have been proud watching her daughter walk on the field at Dodger Stadium on May 14, being honored for her work.

Julia Manzur died in 2005 from breast cancer. Alicia was just 13 years old at the time. In the six years since her mother’s passing, Alicia has dedicated her time to spreading awareness of the disease so that others get involved in the fight. For Alicia’s work, she was selected as the Dodgers’ winner for Major League Baseball and Susan G. Komen for the Cure’s 2011 Honorary Bat Girl Contest.

“It’s a great feeling,” said the 19-year-old of being honored at Dodger Stadium. “It’s a great feeling to know I’m doing it for her and other people can benefit from this and learn about breast cancer so one day they can find a cure.”

The Honorary Bat Girl program was introduced in 2009 to raise additional awareness and support for the annual Going to Bat Against Breast Cancer initiative celebrated on Mother’s Day throughout Major League Baseball. Major League Baseball and Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the world’s largest breast cancer non-profit organization, work in concert for the annual initiative. As part of it, players across the Major Leagues use pink bats, wear symbolic pink ribbons and pink wristbands in support of the fight against breast cancer.

Alicia, a lifelong Dodger fan, has participated in 10 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure walks and for the last two years has organized the largest group at the Orange County walk. She has volunteered for the organization and given talks to the public about the disease.

“I was young when she was diagnosed. I really didn’t understand what breast cancer was,” said Alicia of her mother. “The fact that I had to learn about it and go through all the struggles, I didn’t want kids to go through the same struggles.

“I always see myself being an advocate for breast cancer and doing something to raise awareness,” she said. “It’s something I’ll never stop doing.”

MY DAD, MY MVP

KRISTY KERNS always knew who she looked upon as her own MVP — her father Dale Kerns. A Dodger fan since his youth, Dale was undergoing treatment for kidney cancer when Kristy nominated her father to be the Dodgers’ representative for the inaugural “My Dad, My MVP” award that was introduced in 2011 to recognize extraordinary fathers and father figures as part of the MLB Father’s Day celebration.

“My dad is my hero, so I was very, very proud that my dad gets to go see his favorite team,” Kristy said during a special pregame ceremony at Dodger Stadium on Father’s Day, June 19. “My dad is such an inspiration to me. He sits there and constantly worries about us, and yet he is fighting for his own life. ... He’s just a hero in my eyes.”

Dale, who was accompanied to the game by his five grandchildren, two children and wife, Rita, announced to the crowd “It’s time for Dodger baseball” prior to the game. This was 41 years after Dale and Rita had their first date at Dodger Stadium.

On Aug. 22, Dale lost his battle with kidney cancer. Though he fought his condition bravely, he leaves behind a special legacy and great memories like the one he had on the field at Dodger Stadium on his last Father’s Day.

PROSTATE CANCER FOUNDATION HOME RUN CHALLENGE

MLB, the MLB Players Association and the Prostate Cancer Foundation teamed up for the Prostate Cancer Foundation’s “Home Run Challenge” to raise funds for research and increase awareness of prostate cancer. Nearly $2 million was raised through donations for home runs hit during selected MLB games from June 8-19. On June 19, Prostate Cancer Foundation Founder and Chairman Michael Milken was joined by Dodger Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda, Don Mattingly and Matt Kemp during pregame ceremonies at Dodger Stadium.
ALS DOESN’T STOP A LIFELONG DODGER FAN

LIFELONG DODGER fan Matt Weyuker has ALS. He can’t walk or stand. He can’t dress himself.

But he can love. He can still love his wife of 57 years, Marlene, and his children. And he can love his team.

Despite his illness and the limitations placed on him because of it, which include an inability to speak without the assistance of a communication device called a DynaVox (which is a computer that speaks what is typed into it), Matt wrote a manuscript called “The Anguish and The Wonder — My 70+ year love affair with the Dodgers.”

On Aug. 14, prior to the Dodgers’ game with the Houston Astros, Matt and Marlene were on-field guests at Dodger Stadium and were announced to the crowd. The ALS Association of Greater Los Angeles, knowing the 78-year-old Desert Hot Springs resident has spent a lifetime rooting for the Dodgers, suggested Matt be recognized for his battle with ALS, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

“ When we came onto the field at Dodger Stadium, it was like a dream come true,” said Matt. “I kept smiling and my goose bumps had goose bumps.”

This was the first time Matt had been on the field for a Dodger game. He fell in love with the Dodgers on April 23, 1938. That was the first time the native New Yorker saw the Dodgers in person. He walked into Brooklyn’s Ebbets Field and through a tunnel, which revealed the emerald grass and the smell of hot dogs and popcorn.

In 1958, the Dodgers joined Matt on the West Coast with their move to Los Angeles from Brooklyn. Through the years, his romance with the team never dwindled. He met Jackie Robinson on a couple occasions and rooted for Duke Snider. Matt and Marlene moved to Southern California in 1997 after years of Matt being a lobbyist in Sacramento. In 2004, he was diagnosed with ALS.

His passion and a desire to share the story of his life with his children were the reasons for Matt writing the manuscript. It weaves stories of his affinity for the Dodgers and the special occurrences of his life together. He gave the manuscript its name as a nod to the days of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

“His outlook is miraculous,” said Marlene. It helps, she said, when he has something to look forward to every day — like a Dodger game.

MAKE-A-WISH: CHRIS RAMIREZ

CHRIS RAMIREZ was diagnosed with glioblastoma, the most common and aggressive of brain tumors on Jan. 21, 2010. After a pair of brain surgeries, the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Dodgers arranged for Ramirez to “try out” for the team during 2010 Spring Training.

Chris came back to Spring Training for two days this March with his mother, Sara Aguirre, and sister, Erika Aguirre, as a guest of the Dodgers. He wanted to show the team that he is now cancer free.

“This year felt like I was going home again,” said Chris. “As soon as I walked into the clubhouse, all the guys were like, ‘Hey Chris, how are you doing?’ or ‘We heard how good you’re doing.’”

Doctors doubted his future nearly two years ago. But since then, Chris has accomplished the following: He started playing baseball again for Capuchino High in Northern California, he graduated from the school, he is taking classes at Skyline Junior College and playing baseball there. But most importantly, he beat cancer.

“The Dodgers have given him a lot of support, more than I expected,” said Chris’ mother. “They have been keeping him alive because he always looks forward to seeing them again to talk to them.”

Chris said he drew strength from his experience at Spring Training last year.

“Now I love the Dodgers for all they’ve done. They’ve saved my life,” he said. “They tell me that I did it, but I give the credit to the Dodgers. Without them, I wouldn’t have anything to look forward to.”
DODGER WIVES GIVE BACK

THE DODGER FAMILY extends beyond the field and those who play on it. Two separate events showed how the wives of several players have gotten involved by giving back.

On Aug. 9, Maggie Ethier, Kim Carroll, Abbie Blake, Aurielle Lindblom and Ellen Kershaw paid a visit to Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and spent time with several youngsters who are at the hospital (left). On Sept. 20, Tiffany Billingsley, Cindy Ellis, Ethier, Lindblom and Kershaw donated almost $10,000 worth of household goods to St. Anne’s, a social service agency in Silver Lake (right).

PITCH, HIT AND RUN

HER MOTHER, Shelley Huerta, said she thinks what happened on Aug. 10 was bigger in the eyes and mind of her daughter Sierra than actually winning Major League Baseball’s Pitch, Hit & Run National Competition during All-Star Week in Phoenix a month earlier.

Sierra Huerta, a 12-year-old from Fillmore, was the sixth participant to represent the Dodgers in the 15-year history of Pitch, Hit & Run National Finals and the first female Dodger winner. On Aug. 10, Sierra was an on-field guest prior to the Dodgers’ game with the Philadelphia Phillies. She was able to meet some of her favorite players, then was announced to the crowd in recognition for her special achievement and she threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

“I was really proud. I love the Dodgers,” said Sierra on why her trip to Dodger Stadium was so special.

But it wasn’t the first on-field experience she had this year. Going farther back, though, to get to Dodger Stadium, then Chase Field in Phoenix, Sierra had to place first in any of the three categories — pitch, hit or run — in a local competition in Fillmore. Over 650,000 kids across the United States started at the local level. Succeeding there, she moved on to a sectional in San Luis Obispo. The 5-4 eighth-grader had one very strong competitor on her heels, though — her twin sister Bailey.

Sierra ended up taking first place, with her sister finishing second.

The sectional led Sierra to Dodger Stadium on June 19, where she won a competition against others in the 11-12-year-old girls division. That led her to being selected for the competition in Phoenix.

In the end, Sierra succeeded again.

“I was kind of shocked for a second,” she said. “It was one of those moments where you’re so happy, but relaxed at the same time. I didn’t know what to think. It was amazing.”

RBI WORLD SERIES CHampions

THE 2011 REVIVING Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) Softball World Series Champions were honored on the field before the Dodgers’ Sept. 14 game at Dodger Stadium. The Los Angeles RBI softball team claimed its second consecutive title this year and is only the second team to accomplish that feat. RBI is the Major League Baseball youth initiative designed to provide underserved youth with the opportunity to play baseball and softball, encourage academic success and teach the value of teamwork. In 2011, RBI operated more than 300 programs in more than 200 cities worldwide, serving more than 200,000 young men and women.

JOB FAIR

THE LOS ANGELES DODGERS and the Dodgers Dream Foundation hosted the 16th Annual Community Job Fair on Feb. 26. More than 12,000 applicants attended the event, where more than 100 companies from the public and private sector were represented. Early estimations are that more than 3,600 found employment through the Job Fair.

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In 2011, the Dodgers and the Dodgers Dream Foundation helped more than 5,000 organizations from Southern California all the way to Africa.

People of all ages had their lives enriched through donations, visits to Dodgers Stadium and other experiences. Below is just a sampling of the organizations that have received help.

If you would like more information about the Dodgers’ efforts in the community or would like to request a donation for your non-profit organization, please visit dodgers.com/community or mail your request to:

Los Angeles Dodgers, Community Relations
1000 Elysian Park Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90080