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Springfield Badges for Baseball Wins Second Quickball Tournament

SPRINGFIELD, OH— (July 20, 2017) – Springfield’s Badges for Baseball team won its second championship title at the 2nd annual Badges for Baseball quickball tournament in Columbus. Badges for Baseball is a program of the Cal Ripkin, Sr. Foundation.

“Working with the kids in this community is an incredibly rewarding experience,” said officer and coach Tom Selner. “I love getting to know all the kids and see them improve their baseball skills. It is highly important for officers to form personal relationships in the community, and this program is a great way to accomplish that goal.”

Every fall and spring, the City of Springfield participates in the Badges for Baseball program. The program is run locally by officers at the Johnny Lytle Community Police Station to prevent juvenile crime and promote community and friendship between at-risk youths and law enforcement. Officers become coaches and mentors to the 10-20 kids who sign up to play on the team each season. This year, 11 kids and three officers attended the annual quickball tournament in Columbus, competing against four other communities. Springfield beat Dayton to win the championship title.

Not only are children able to meet other kids in the community and play a sport they love, but they also learn many important lessons like Sportsmanship, Teamwork, Leadership, Responsibility, Respect and Work Ethic from their community police officers.

Badges for Baseball gives a platform for police officers to make a positive impact on local youth and discuss the importance of making good decisions and the serious consequences of poor choices. In 2015, Badges for Baseball ran in 177 communities in 18 states, impacting over 25,533 at-risk youths with the help of 1,365 law enforcement officers.

“The men and women of our organization interact with countless young people in our community on a daily basis. Those interactions are crucial in our ability to serve, particularly those times when we are involved with children or young adults,” said Police Chief Stephen Moody. “Badges for Baseball is a prime example of the positive interaction we have with young people throughout the year. We are thankful that the citizens of Springfield voted in May, allowing the Police Division to continue important community policing programs.”

For more information on this program, please visit www.springfieldohio.gov

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