

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 6, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Susan Larson Rodenburg, Susan@SLRCommunications.com, 402-440-3227.

Lincoln Parks Foundation Offers Donor Programs for Sherman Field

Public invited to contribute to project

The Lincoln Parks Foundation is offering several unique ways for baseball enthusiasts to support the Sherman Field Forever fundraising campaign for renovations at the historic facility.

Located at 2nd and South Streets, Lincoln's Sherman Field is in dire need of a facelift. The 64-year old field and grandstand were renovated in 1997, but the original support facilities need replacement. The renovation project includes two new dugouts, a new maintenance and training building, a restroom building, a ticket and concession building, a new concourse, energy efficient field lighting and a reorganized parking lot with ADA accessibility. The dugouts are finished and the rest of the renovation is expected to be completed by December, 2011.

The Lincoln Parks Foundation (LPF) is spearheading the \$2.2 million fund-raising campaign. Lincoln natives Joba Chamberlain and Alex Gordon, both current Major League Baseball players, are Honorary Co-Chairs of the Sherman Field Forever Campaign. The campaign cabinet includes John Sampson, Leslie Gordon, Bill Fagler and Dick Clarence.

The Ball Tile, Diamond Paver and Grand Slam Bat programs which allow donors to purchase an inscribed ball tile, brick paver or baseball bat panel in honor or in memory of a player, friend or team, according to Lincoln Parks Foundation Board of Directors President Liz Lange.

All donors of the Ball Tiles and Diamond Pavers will receive a commemorative certificate suitable for framing which can be presented to the honoree or honoree's family and a Sherman Field lapel pin. If the donor wishes, a letter will be sent to the honoree or honoree's family indicating that a special gift has been purchased in their honor.

More information about Sherman Field's donor programs:

Ball Tiles-\$150

Each 4" by 4" tile consists of a name and up to three additional lines of text (position, team, years played at Sherman Field, for example). A ball tile is a perfect way to pay tribute to a favorite player, fan, parent, coach or friend who has a passion for baseball. The ball tiles will be included in the donor appreciation display under the historic grandstand at Sherman Field.

Diamond Pavers-\$250

Located in the new entry plaza, each brick will be inscribed with two lines of up to 16 characters per line.

(more)

Grand Slam Bats-\$500

The Grand Slam Bats will include team name, sponsor, players and other team information. The bats will be included in the donor appreciation display under the historic grandstand at Sherman Field.

In March, Mayor Chris Beutler announced that the area around the historic Sherman Field ballpark will be named Sampson Park to honor a local family. The park is being named for Morris "Sam" and Evelyn Sampson who founded Sampson Construction Company in Lincoln in 1952. The naming recognizes a significant contribution from their son, the current President, John Sampson. The company, which employs about 300 workers, is donating about \$445,000 in labor and materials for renovation work at Sherman Field. John Sampson's ties to the Sherman Field include watching the Lincoln Chiefs as a boy, playing catcher for Gary's Sports Shop and Lincoln High School and sponsoring Lincoln High's American Legion team for many years.

Lange invited the community to participate in the donor programs to help finish the campaign, which is nearly three-fourths completed. Donor forms and more information are available at www.ShermanField.org.

"We are so close to reaching our goal, thanks to all of our generous donors who have participated so far in this very important community project. We are excited to offer these unique donor programs that will allow baseball enthusiasts to be recognized at the field and to help us reach our goal."

Sherman Field is the primary venue for high school and American Legion baseball games. Between mid-March through mid-July, the field hosts about 250 games. The state high school baseball tournament will use the field through 2012.

"This field has an incredible history, serving semi-pro players and thousands of young baseball players since 1947," Lange said. "We need the community's help to finish this project so Lincoln can keep the state high school baseball tournament and the American Legion league for many years to come."

For more information about Sherman Field, go to: www.ShermanField.org or call the Lincoln Parks Foundation at 402-441-8258.

###