IN THE COMMUNITY

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As we look back on 2016, we are proud of what we accomplished both on and off the field.

Along with our programs focusing on kids, military & first responders, service and fundraising, we have deepened our commitment to the community with several new initiatives.

Our Community Partners program has allowed us to highlight eight grassroots organizations who are working tirelessly to improve the lives of those who need help in New York. We have gotten to know the families that they serve and learned what more we can do to help them overcome the challenges they face.

The Employee Engagement Program has provided our staff with consistent volunteer opportunities during the offseason and will continue during the season. The ongoing program helps us form meaningful connections with the men, women and children in our community.

And finally, the MetsGiving campaign has brought our entire organization together – both on-field and front-office staff – to make a huge difference during the holiday season.

We are proud of all the work that has been done, and working together with our Corporate and Community Partners, we know we can do more.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wilpon
Chief Operating Officer
The Mets launched their Community Partner program in 2016, designating eight grassroots community-based organizations as official Mets Community Partners. The Mets pledged to support each group for two years through a variety of ways including: providing Commissioner’s tickets to games for children and adults who wouldn’t normally be able to attend, participating in events with Mr. Met and player and alumni appearances.

The Mets worked closely with their Community Partners on a range of events including: the MetsGiving turkey giveaway and Holiday Shopping Spree programs, Employee Engagement volunteer opportunities, Junior Mets baseball clinics, Mets Food Drive presented by Hain Celestial and a Bullying Prevention program. In addition, the Mets invited all the groups to Citi Field for a one-day Community Partner Summit to exchange ideas and best practices.
Mets employees made over 6,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that St. Francis Food Pantries & Shelters distributed to groups it works with to feed the hungry.

Mets employees volunteered to deliver and hand out turkeys at New York Common Pantry’s Mott Haven location in the Bronx.

The Mets worked with Brooklyn Community Services to give away turkeys at the Seth Low Cornerstone Community Center in Brooklyn.

Mets employees made over 6,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that St. Francis Food Pantries & Shelters distributed to groups it works with to feed the hungry.
The Mets launched an Employee Engagement Program in 2016, providing Mets employees with two volunteer opportunities a month at local community organizations. Employees helped care for dogs and cats at the North Shore Animal League in Port Washington, read books to children in need at the Pajama Program in Manhattan, and served meals to the hungry at the New York Common Pantry in East Harlem.
Mets outfielder Curtis Granderson was named the winner of the 2016 Roberto Clemente Award, the most prestigious individual player award from Major League Baseball. Commissioner Robert J. Manfred, Jr. presented Granderson with the award during a press conference at the World Series in Chicago.

Throughout his 13-year career, Granderson has been a significant contributor within every community in which he has played and lived. In 2007, he created the Grand Kids Foundation to improve educational experiences for young people nationwide and to establish additional baseball opportunities for inner-city youth in his hometown of Chicago. He personally donated $5 million toward a state-of-the-art indoor/outdoor youth baseball academy at his alma mater, the University of Illinois at Chicago. The complex was renamed “Curtis Granderson Stadium” and opened in 2014. The facility provides nearly 10,000 Chicago youth with the opportunity to play in a safe environment year-round. Additionally, Granderson holds multiple baseball clinics throughout the year in Chicago, his baseball home in New York and his Spring Training home in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

At Citi Field in New York, Curtis hosts the Grand Kids Summer Series and brings groups of children out to the ballpark to enjoy Mets games throughout the season. Granderson served as the ambassador for the “Citi Home Runs for Communities” program, which raised more than $328,000 over two seasons for City Harvest, United Neighborhood Houses, the USO of Metropolitan New York and the YMCA.
The Mets expanded their MetsGiving initiative to encompass a series of programs in November and December that focused on helping the community during the holiday season. The events featured players, front-office staff and fans all working together to give back and help those who are underserved in our community.

**Food Drive**
Mets fans donated more than 6,000 pounds of food at the Mets Food Drive presented by Hain Celestial. The River Fund NY collected the food and distributed it to the more than 800 families they serve weekly at their food pantry. Outfielder Curtis Granderson and Fresh Direct donated food as part of his Grand Giving hunger relief campaign and thanked fans for their generosity. In exchange for donating 10 or more items, fans received a voucher good for two Mets tickets in 2017.

**Turkey Giveaway**
With help from Uber and its drivers, the Mets distributed 700 turkeys across the five boroughs over two days to help families in need celebrate Thanksgiving. General Manager Sandy Alderson distributed turkeys to families in Richmond Hill while outfielder Curtis Granderson and infielder José Reyes did the same with students at MS 72 in South Jamaica. Infielder T.J. Rivera and his wife, Ashton, joined Mets employees in delivering complete Thanksgiving meals to families in Corona and Elmhurst.
Coat Drive
Pitcher Zack Wheeler donated more than 60 jackets worn by Mets players during the season to the Mets Coat Drive presented by UnitedHealthcare, benefitting New Yorkers in need through New York Cares. Fans donated more than 1,300 coats during the drive and received a voucher for a pair of Mets tickets.

Kids Holiday Party
Pitcher Noah Syndergaard played the role of Santa, while infielder José Reyes and outfielder Brandon Nimmo dressed up as elves during the annual Mets Kids Holiday Party at Citi Field. The players handed out presents to more than 125 elementary school children who also enjoyed lunch, played games and performed holiday songs during the event. The Mets worked with Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and New York City Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland to select students from local schools.

Holiday Shopping Spree
The Mets partnered with the River Fund NY to take 14 underserved kids on a holiday shopping spree at a big-box retailer. Pitchers Noah Syndergaard and Matt Harvey, and outfielder Brandon Nimmo along with front-office employees helped the children select presents for their family and themselves.
KIDS

SPRING CLINIC FOR CHAMPIONS
Mets Captain David Wright, Hall-of-Famer Mike Piazza and over 20 other players and coaches participated in the Spring Clinic for Champions with Special Olympics in Port St. Lucie, Florida. The St. Lucie County Commissioners and Administrators helped organize the event at the Mets Spring Training home at Tradition Field. More than 100 Special Olympic athletes got to hit, field, catch and throw during the clinic and later enjoyed a dinner at the ballpark with their families.
The Mets teamed up with Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) on a campaign to strike out bullying highlighted by a contest for high school students to create a bullying prevention public service video. The winning students at Comsewogue High School met players during batting practice at Citi Field, were honored on the field before the game and had their video shown on CitiVision.

In addition, the Mets also created a public service video for CAPS to use in its in-classroom training featuring pitcher Jacob deGrom and outfielder Curtis Granderson. They talked about the steps students can take to stop bullying at their schools.
Each month during the season, the Mets hosted hundreds of boys and girls at Junior Mets baseball clinics at Citi Field and nearby Hinton Park. Mets players and coaches ran the children through hitting, fielding and pitching drills. The kids received Junior Mets t-shirts as well as tickets to a future game. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to learn how to field from infielder Wilmer Flores, how to pitch from reliever Addison Reed or how to hit from Mets outfielder Brandon Nimmo. The Mets worked with local youth baseball organizations to select the participants from underserved communities.
Bronx native T.J. Rivera visited his alma mater, Lehman High School, to meet with students and talk to them about how he achieved his dream of reaching the major leagues. Rivera met with more than 100 students - including members of the baseball and softball teams - in the school gym.
NYU HOSPITAL VISIT

Yoenis Céspedes visited 50 children from NYU's Hassenfeld Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. Upon arrival, Céspedes greeted the children with signed photos, "YO" t-shirts and Mets fleece blankets. The Mets slugger also helped the kids with baseball-themed activities including making baseball cards, hats & t-shirts.
LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES CHAMPS

The Mets hosted the 2016 Little League World Series Champions, the Maine-Endwell Spartans, at Citi Field to congratulate them on their monumental victory against South Korea. Maine-Endwell was the first team from New York to win the Little League World Series since 1964.

Mets Chairman Fred Wilpon greeted the team with personalized authentic Mets jerseys for each of the players and coaches. Governor Andrew Cuomo presented the team with an official New York State proclamation congratulating each player on their achievement. The team then went on a VIP tour of the ballpark and clubhouse before going onto the field for batting practice where they got autographs and pictures with Mets players.
At every home game at Citi Field, the Mets salute a “Veteran of the Game” for their service and sacrifice defending our country. A player presents the honoree with an American flag that has flown over Citi Field and a Mets Challenge Coin, as CitiVision plays a segment showcasing the soldier’s achievements while serving in the military.
Mets pitcher Steven Matz launched Tru32 as a way to say thank you to the true heroes — first responders of the FDNY, NYPD and military. Matz and the Mets invited 32 true heroes out to the ballpark every Wednesday during the season to watch batting practice, receive a Tru32 t-shirt and engage in a meet and greet with the lefthander from Long Island.
Members from all five branches of the U.S. Military competed in an exciting softball tournament at Citi Field for the second annual Mets Military Softball Classic, presented by First Data. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard played on the field with Mets players cheering them on. General Manager Sandy Alderson presented each participant with a Mets Challenge Coin in appreciation for their service. The Army came out on top and following the action, players joined their families for dinner and the Mets game that night.
WALTER REED VISIT
It has become a tradition over the years for the Mets to visit Walter Reed National Military Medical Center when the team travels to Washington to play the Nationals. This year, the Mets hosted lunch for hundreds of Wounded Warriors and active service men and women and their families as a way to say thank you for their service and sacrifice. Players signed autographs, posed for photos and shared a meal with the members of the military.

Mets Chairman Fred Wilpon led the Mets contingent which included General Manager and retired Marine Sandy Alderson, Manager Terry Collins, players, coaches, support staff and SNY broadcasters Gary Cohen and Ron Darling.
The Mets continue the tradition of paying respect to the heroes of the NYPD and FDNY to commemorate the anniversary of September 11. Captain David Wright and Mets legend Edgardo Alfonzo visited Engine 39 and Ladder 16 on the Upper East Side, while General Manager Sandy Alderson and Mets legend John Franco toured the September 11 Memorial & Museum and the adjacent Engine 10/Ladder 10 across the street from the World Trade Center site. The Mets chatted with the firefighters, handed out t-shirts, took photos and signed autographs.
The Mets continued to honor the fallen and injured heroes of the NYPD and FDNY following tragic events. On Opening Day, members of both departments who were injured in the line of duty participated in the first pitch ceremony.

The Mets honored slain FDNY Deputy Chief Michael Fahy before the Wild Card game at Citi Field with his 11-year-old son Michael throwing out the first pitch. Michael was accompanied by his sister Anna, brother Cormac, and mother Fiona. The Fahy family got to meet Mets Captain David Wright and infielder Neil Walker before the game and even took some cuts in the batting cage with the third baseman throwing pitches to them.

After the season, Mets Chief Operating Officer Jeff Wilpon, General Manager Sandy Alderson and pitcher Matt Harvey stopped by the 43rd precinct in the Bronx to present a framed jersey of NYPD Sgt. Paul Tuozzolo, who was killed in the line of duty. His wife Lisa and sons Austin and Joseph, were invited to Citi Field for the Kids Holiday Party where they met pitcher Noah Syndergaard, infielder José Reyes and outfielder Brandon Nimmo.

Wilpon and minor-leaguer Tim Tebow also visited the 105th precinct in Queens Village to help lift spirits 18 months after the station house lost NYPD Detective Brian Moore.
For the past three years, the Mets have teamed up with their partners at Bloomberg LP to hold Bike Builds to benefit children in New York City. Volunteers from both companies have built 2,250 bikes that have been distributed to children in underserved areas. In the latest build, the Mets and Bloomberg worked with Citi for its Global Community Day to build bikes for the YMCA of Greater New York, Brooklyn Community Services and Bike New York.
STERLING WINNERS AT NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY

The Mets Sterling Award winners - the top players in the minor league system - partnered with Mets Community Partner New York Common Pantry in East Harlem to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to help feed the hungry. The winners, who were joined by Mets General Manager Sandy Alderson, made over 200 sandwiches.
The entire Mets front office donned aprons and rolled up their sleeves to make 6,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to help feed the hungry. With St. Francis Food Pantries and Shelters providing the tutelage and ingredients, 200 employees made the sandwiches as part of the organization’s annual company-wide volunteer holiday initiative.
METS DRIVES

The Mets hold multiple drives throughout the season to help those in need in and around New York City. As a thank you for donating, Mets fans receive vouchers that can be redeemed for a pair of Mets tickets.

Food Drive
Mets fans donated more than 38,000 pounds of food at the Mets Food Drives presented by Hain Celestial in January, June and November. City Harvest and the River Fund NY distributed the food to families who are food insecure throughout the city. Wives of Mets players and coaches volunteered to collect food at the in-season drive.

Coat Drive
More than 1,300 coats were donated at the 11th annual Warm Up Coat Drive benefiting families served by New York Cares. Mets pitcher, Zack Wheeler was on hand to help collect coats and thank fans for donating.

Blood Drive
Almost 1,200 pints of blood were collected at the annual winter and summer Blood Drives at Citi Field. Since 2009, blood drives at the ballpark have produced more than 7,000 pints of blood.

Equipment Drive
The Mets teamed up with the Baseball Tomorrow Fund for their annual Equipment Drive at Citi Field. They collected new and gently used bats, gloves, balls and other equipment items were donated to Far Rockaway RBI League.
The annual Mets Welcome Home Dinner presented by Alliance Building Services raised more than $700,000 for the Katz Institute for Women’s Health, a member of Northwell Health, and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The entire Mets roster attended the event that featured a game show testing the players’ trivia knowledge and an Amazin’ Auction with once-in-a-lifetime experiences.
The Mets Wives hosted a Mystery Baseballs fundraiser to sell baseball to raise money for the Mets Foundation. Fans selected a paper bag which contained a baseball signed by one of many Mets players including Captain David Wright and pitchers Jacob deGrom and Matt Harvey and many more. The fundraiser raised over $15,000 to help the foundation fund and promote a variety of educational, social and athletic programs and other charitable causes.
For the third year in a row, Captain David Wright hosted the Big League Impact New York Fantasy Football draft at Citi Field. Outfielder Jay Bruce, pitcher Steven Matz and infielder Neil Walker joined Wright in the league, and drafted players for their teams alongside fans who donated money to participate in the exciting event. More than $60,000 was raised for the Ronald McDonald Houses in New York and Long Island, the Mets Foundation and Big League Impact.
More than 700 children and their families came to Citi Field for the 14th annual enCourage Kids Night Fundraiser. The Mets and Aramark hosted the event in the Bullpen Plaza where the children enjoyed face painting, ballpark fare and special visits from Mr. Met and the Mets wives. The event raised more than $100,000 for the organization, formerly known as the Starlight Foundation, to help kids face health challenges by creating a safe environment and experiences to help them through their medical journey.
The Mets hosted the annual “Night to Believe” fundraiser at Citi Field benefiting Project ALS, a non-profit organization renowned for their outstanding leadership in finding and funding treatments and a cure for Lou Gehrig’s disease. The event has raised over $2 million for crucial ALS research over 14 years.
The Mets work closely with our local elected officials to help our community. Whether it’s at Citi Field, at a food pantry in Manhattan or at a ballfield in Brooklyn, the Mets seek to partner with leaders in our community.

New York State Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz joined the Mets, Major League Baseball and Scotts and local youth baseball players to celebrate the refurbishment of College Point Fields.

New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo presented the players and coaches from Maine-Endwell, the 2016 Little League World Series champions, with an official NYS Proclamation celebrating their historic victory.

Mike Piazza’s No. 31 Retirement Ceremony brought out (from left to right) New York State Assembly Members Michael G. DenDekker, Michael Cusick, New York State Senators Michael Gianaris and John J. Flannigan, and U.S. Congressmen Peter King.

On Opening Day, the Mets honored men and women of the NYPD and FDNY who were injured in the line of duty. Police Commissioner Bill Bratton, New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio, FDNY Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro, and NYPD Chief of Department James P. O’Neill (who later succeeded Bratton as Commissioner) were on hand to show support.
The New York Mets Foundation funds and promotes a variety of educational, social and athletic programs and other charitable causes. Founded in 1963, it continues its mission to invest in the future of our community, and to provide assistance to myriad organizations that benefit children and others in need.

A registered 501(c)(3) charity, the Mets Foundation takes no portion of the funds raised to offset internal costs. The New York Mets pay 100% of the Foundation's overhead to ensure that the entirety of a donation is directed toward helping others.