



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## RiverHawks benefit local and national charities

**LOVES PARK, Ill.** – The Rockford RiverHawks all-time career hits leader and active player Jason James said this month that he is a doubles hitter. That is a good thing for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the YMCA of Rock River Valley, one of several national and local organizations that have raised funds this year in partnership with the Rockford RiverHawks.

Every time a RiverHawks player hits a double, the Big Brothers and Big Sisters receive a donation from Rockford Area Insurers and Financial Advisers, a corporate partner of the RiverHawks. That is just one of several ways that groups are profiting by working with the ‘Hawks.

Several organizations have utilized a program where they purchase a block of tickets on consignment from the RiverHawks. For each ticket they sell, they receive \$3.00 in return. Other non-profit groups have benefited from the “50/50” raffle held at each RiverHawks’ home game. The Big Brothers and Big Sisters were one such group who received \$725.00 from a recent drawing. The United Way of Rockford and several youth baseball teams have also participated in these fundraising programs this season.

The RiverHawks also aid national organizations. Rockford general manager Josh Olerud said the ‘Hawks have helped raise over \$400,000 for charities in the last three years, with over \$200,000 going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association alone. Jersey Auction Nights have been big contributors to the MDA’s total. A Jersey Auction Night is scheduled this season for August 15, along with a special appearance by a Chicago Blackhawks player.

“Fundraising with the RiverHawks offers a different option for groups than the traditional methods,” said Brad Sholes, the RiverHawks’ director of ticket operations and finance. “It is a great way to bring together everyone who supports an organization’s mission for a fun experience and raise funds at the same time.”

Organizations who are interested in fundraising with the Rockford RiverHawks should contact the front office at (815) 885-2255.

The Rockford RiverHawks are the most highly attended minor-league baseball team in the Stateline. The RiverHawks are members of the Frontier League, a 12-team independent professional baseball league playing its 17<sup>th</sup> season this summer. The RiverHawks are in their eighth season and will host the 2009 Frontier League All-Star Game at 7:05 p.m. on July 15. Advertising and ticket information is available by calling (815) 885-2255. Fans can also visit the RiverHawks at [www.rockfordriverhawks.com](http://www.rockfordriverhawks.com).



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**Home of the 2009 Frontier League All-Star Game**