



# OAKLAND ATHLETICS

## Media Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **A's Pitcher Dallas Braden and Catcher Kurt Suzuki to Share Dave Stewart Community Service Award**

Stewart to Present Braden and Suzuki with the Award Prior to Tonight's Game

**OAKLAND, Calif.** – Oakland A's pitcher Dallas Braden and catcher Kurt Suzuki have been named the co-recipients of the 2009 Dave Stewart Community Service Award, which is given annually to an A's player in recognition of charitable contributions throughout Northern California and across the nation.

Dave Stewart will present Braden and Suzuki with the awards prior to tonight's 7:05 pm game against Cleveland in a special on-field ceremony at 6:52 pm.

On June 28, Braden treated over 240 members of his former little league, Hoover Tyler, of Stockton, CA, to the A's game, where they participated in Little League Day at the Park and paraded around the field with thousands of other local little leaguers. Braden, who was raised in Stockton by his mother Jodie Atwood, announced that day that he will annually be sponsoring one child from Hoover Tyler who is being raised by a single parent. This year, he sponsored two children, brothers Mitchell and Camron Alexander, who along with their team, participated in an on-field clinic with Braden the morning of June 28. The boys then joined the Little League Day parade, followed by a visit of the clubhouse to meet with other A's players. They were also honored in a special pre-game ceremony where Braden presented them each with a jersey, Mizuno glove and Easton bat before the boys tossed out the game's ceremonial first pitch.

In addition, on Thanksgiving Eve 2008, Braden assisted the staff and volunteers at the St. Mary's Interfaith Services Dining Room in serving over 845 pounds of food that was donated by local restaurants with the help of Braden. For weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, Braden personally visited Stockton restaurants, asking – then matching - food donations. St. Mary's Interfaith serves the needs of poor men, women and children in Stockton through nurturing self-reliance for a hopeful future, by offering food, clothing, medical and dental care, educational programs and general assistance.

Kurt and his wife Renee helped establish the "Jon Wilhite Recovery Fund" immediately after learning about the tragic car crash on April 9, 2009 that took the lives of Angels' pitcher Nick Adenhardt and two others. The fund was set up to assist their good friend and former teammate from Cal State Fullerton, Jon Wilhite, who was the lone survivor of that crash. Wilhite suffered injuries that required an operation to reattach his skull and spinal column after a rare separation and is currently undergoing speech, physical and occupational therapy. In just over two months, the Suzukis raised more than \$61,000 to help alleviate some of Wilhite's medical costs with the help of A's and Angels' fans, the A's Community Fund and Athletics Nation.

Funds were raised through the sale of over 450 autographed baseballs, an on-line auction of game-used and autographed memorabilia on the A's website during the month of June, a three-day silent auction at CSU Fullerton in May, through the A's silent auction, an A's Community Fund donation and other donations by fans through [athleticsnation.com](http://athleticsnation.com). In addition, the Suzukis hosted the Wilhite family at the A's vs. Angels' game in Oakland July 18, and Jon received a rousing ovation from the crowd when he threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

The Dave Stewart Community Service Award originated in 1996 in honor of Stewart's many years of community service in the Bay Area. Throughout the years, Stewart has been involved in many non-profit organizations including the Oakland Boys & Girls Club and Team-Up for Youth, a program that supports healthy development for young people living in low income communities through after school sports and physical activity programs.

*Previous Dave Stewart Community Service Award Winners:*

1996 .....	Ernie Young	2001 .....	Terrence Long	2006 .....	Mark Kotsay
1997 .....	Scott Spiezio	2002 .....	Tim Hudson	2007 .....	Mark Ellis
1998 .....	Tom Candiotti	2003 .....	Scott Hatteberg	2008 .....	Dana Eveland
1999 .....	Art Howe	2004 .....	Eric Chavez	2009 .....	Dallas Braden
2000 .....	Jason Giambi	2005 .....	Barry Zito		Kurt Suzuki

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