



# SPRING INTO ACTION



## ON MAY 5

### **Dear Friends,**

I grew up not far from the Oakland Coliseum, the arena where I would spend seven years playing for the Oakland A's and where I would pitch the first game of the 1989 World Series. When I reflect on my childhood, I often think about my mother's words ***"you may not always have what you want, but you'll always have what you need."***



The people of Oakland made me who I am today. At the age of seven, I discovered baseball at the Oakland Boys and Girls Club, and I was hooked from day one. Soon, I was playing baseball, basketball and football, here, there and anywhere. I played weekends, after school, every hour I could. There were lots of kids like me in Oakland. Long before we were A's teammates, Rickey Henderson and I played together in Little League; and Gary Pettis and I were teammates at the Oakland Babe Ruth League well before we faced off in the majors.

Mom was right. I always somehow had what I needed...a new bat, glove or cleats. And most of all, great coaches who, along the way, influenced me positively, kept me off the streets, and taught me to give back to this community that made me.

It's what I love about Coaching Corps. They recruit and train volunteers to be great sports coaches to kids living in low-income communities so they can reap the benefits of sports like I did.

**But now, the kids of Oakland are in real danger of not getting what they need.**

With schools and after school programs closed because of the coronavirus pandemic, kids and their families have urgent and ongoing needs for food and basic necessities. And because great coaches don't leave their teams when times are hard, the Coaching Corps community has continued to be there for Oakland kids and families. **That's why I called upon some of my friends, a few old-timers from Oakland, and others I've**

met in recent years, but all who are inspired by Coaching Corps' steadfast dedication to their young players.

**We teamed up to provide a dollar for dollar Challenge Match up to \$50,000 for Coaching Corps on #GivingTuesdayNow.** Let's support Coaching Corps to continue to be there for the kids, now through COVID-19 emergency efforts, and later, when youth sports come back.

Together as the #CorpsCommunity, we can make sure kids have what they need.



Dave Stewart

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