

As Seen In...



Their Best Foot Forward

The Siegel High School Lady Stars are holding a shoe drive as team fundraiser as well as to support microenterprise in developing nations and help the environment.



The Siegel High School varsity team.
Photo courtesy of Siegel High School.

by Deborah Roberts
Community contributor

The Siegel High School Lady Stars basketball team is conducting a shoe collection drive through July 29 to raise funds for the team while also benefiting microenterprise ventures in developing nations and keeping old shoes out of local landfills.

"We are very excited to be conducting this shoe drive," said Deborah Roberts, Lady Stars booster club president. "This campaign will raise funds that directly benefit the girls' basketball team. Our goal is to collect 25,000 pairs of shoes and the only way we can do that is with the community's help. So we're jacking everyone to gather their unwanted shoes and bring them to one of our collection boxes."

In the U.S. alone, approximately 630 million pairs of shoes are thrown away annually. The materials used to manufacture a pair of shoes are created from chemical compounds, the kind that will

create health hazards if left to decompose openly or in landfills. By donating old shoes to the Lady Stars shoe drive, what would have gone into landfills will be given a second chance to make a difference.

All donated shoes will be redistributed through microenterprise partners and used in developing nations for impoverished people to start, maintain and grow an enterprise to feed, clothe and house their families.

"We're very fortunate to have several Buford County businesses partner with us in this campaign. Dr. Jean Alan Rogers, representative, Flatbush

Solo, First Tennessee Bank, La Petite Academy, MDC Anesthesia Center, Inc. Brookhaven, TK Center, North Boulevard Church of Christ, On the Move Store, Patterson Park Community Center, Speed Training Group, Walgreens and Yard Sale King," added Roberts. "This wouldn't be possible without them."

Active booster club

Another important component to the Lady Stars success is an active parent booster club. The role of the Lady Stars Basketball Team Booster Club is to support the Lady Stars by coordinating fundraising activities and soliciting businesses to be sponsors to help supplement the costs of uniforms, game expenses, travel expenses, equipment and supplies. The Booster Club also assists in coordinating community service outreach projects for the team.

The Booster Club's fundraising efforts include working with the Siegel Middle School and Siegel Lady Stars

basketball team camps, and naming concessions for various AAU basketball tournaments. The Lady Stars are very fortunate to have local businesses serve as team sponsors.

"Sponsors play an important role in the success of the Lady Stars program," said Roberts. Some of the benefits of sponsorship include signage at the water's table during basketball games as well as recognition on the sponsorship board prominently displayed in the gym.

The team honed their skills for the upcoming season by participating in the following basketball camps during the month of June: MTSU Team Camp, Siegel High School Team Camp, Brentwood Team Camp and the Shelbyville Team Camp.

They've also been invited to attend the 2013 KBA Events Classic Basketball tournament in Orlando, Fla.

"The girls have worked very hard during the summer and at the camps," said Bush.

The 2013 team roster consists of seniors Allison Bush, Madeline Francisco, Erica Roberts and Elizabeth Canzler, juniors Caroline Ross, Morgan Clement and Dakota Burgess, sophomores Patricia Brown, Kennedy Hammonds, Yanna Jones, Isaurine Thomas, Rachel Truzy and Mikala Viallank, and freshmen De'rika Allen, Victoria Miller and Amanda Young. The team's assistant coaches are Jay Seals and Michelle Barber and team statistician Scott Cochran.

For shoe donation drop-off information please visit the Lady Stars website at siegelwomenhs.org.



The Siegel High School varsity team.
Photo courtesy of Siegel High School.

16-11

The Lady Stars, coached by Alan Bush (the only women's coach in school history), finished last season with a record of 16-11. Not only did the Lady Stars have success on the court, but they went also active off the court in the community. They conducted a basketball skills clinic at the Murkissboson Boys and Girls Club and organized and packed Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts during the holiday season. "We believe it's important for the girls to be active in community service and to understand what it means to give back," said Coach Bush. —Deborah Roberts

PARTICIPATE HOST A COLLECTION BOX

Individuals, businesses or organizations that would like to participate in the shoe drive or host a collection box may contact Deborah Roberts at deborah@shsbs.org. For their immediate drop-off information please visit the Lady Stars website at siegelwomenhs.org.

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—Deborah Roberts

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Madeline Francisco, Allison Bush and Erica Roberts work on organizing the shoe drive donations.
Photo courtesy of Siegel High School.