

RAVENS IN OUR COMMUNITY

BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS



C Matt Birk

Ravens **C Matt Birk** teamed up with Walmart of Rosedale, MD, on Aug. 18 to purchase and distribute school supplies to inner-city children. Through his HIKE Foundation (Hope Inspiration Knowledge Education), which Birk founded in 2002, 150 backpacks were filled with brand new school supplies prior to distribution to area students. Children and families had the opportunity to meet the Harvard graduate as they picked up their supplies. A father of six, Birk consistently emphasizes the importance of education to his own children and those he meets. He said, "Education is incredibly important to me, and through the generous support of Walmart, our hope is that we are removing an obstacle in the way of children learning." Birk's goal was to ensure that shopping for school supplies was one less thing for these parents to worry about with the approaching school year. Over \$15,000 worth of school supplies were given away at the back-to-school event.

RB Ray Rice held a contest via his Facebook page asking his followers to nominate and vote for the best teacher they know. After receiving over 300 submissions in the first day, Rice posted the names of the top 10 teachers that were chosen, indicating that they were to receive school supplies for the entire academic year. On Aug. 15, Rice invited these 10 teachers, along with the guest or colleague that nominated them, to join him at the Under Armour Performance Center in Owings Mills to distribute these supplies. The teachers walked out to the practice field to see their names attached to their own large container filled with various supplies and classroom necessities, also accompanied by backpacks and a Ray Rice autographed Ravens mini-helmet. Rice also said a few words on the importance of the work these teachers do and thanked each one of them individually. ,



RB Ray Rice

OPEN PRACTICE AT STEVENSON UNIVERSITY

The Ravens flocked to Stevenson University in Owings Mills, MD, on Aug. 19 for the final training camp practice that was open to fans. Stevenson's newly-built stadium and the day's mild weather provided fans with an optimal training camp experience. A lottery was used to assign tickets to the winning fans who were interested in coming to the practice. Over 30,000 people applied through the Baltimore Ravens' website, and 3,000 were selected. Admission was free of charge, but tickets were mandatory for entrance into the stadium due to the size of the venue. Over 1,000 children lined up at the conclusion of practice to receive autographs from the players.



S Ed Reed

