



## **Jenks Baseball Players Teamed up with The Autism Center for Buddy Baseball Game Oct. 27**



For Immediate Release

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(Monday, Oct 28, 2012 – Jenks, OK) Jenks Trojans baseball players, in collaboration with The Autism Center of Tulsa, played the seventh annual Buddy Baseball game Sunday, Oct. 27, 2013 from 3 – 5 p.m. at Hinch Field in Jenks. The annual game benefitted children with autism from the Jenks school district and surrounding area and provided an afternoon of special fellowship and fun.

This was the seventh year Jenks Baseball hosted this event. “It is an honor and privilege for us to provide this fun afternoon of baseball,” said Jenks Trojans Baseball Head Coach Dan Morgan.

“The program has grown each year and the players look forward to this event and building these relationships – some of which were established in previous years,” added Morgan.

Groups of two or three players were paired with a child “buddy” from The Autism Center. Parents cheered from the stands, while players assisted their buddy with hitting, running, and fielding. The buddies were announced over the loudspeaker individually and, this year, the national anthem was sung live, by a Jenks student, prior to the start of the game.

Sixteen special needs children, affiliated with The Autism Center of Tulsa, were paired with Jenks High School baseball players for a thrilling game of baseball. Each child received a Buddy Baseball t-shirt, a goodie bag full of fun stuff to take home, and a trophy with an autographed baseball and photo from their Jenks buddies. The Jenks cheer and pom squads added some excellent spirit and entertainment as did the softball team and the Jenks Trojan mascot.

“The camaraderie and compassion shown by the Jenks baseball team for their buddies is heartwarming. They are so genuine and truly enjoy making the game and afternoon special for the children associated with the Autistic Center, shared Jennifer Sollars Miller, Co-Founder and Director of The Autism Center of Tulsa. “As a parent of a child with special needs who plays in the game each year, I am so appreciative of the time and effort the Jenks High School Baseball players, coaches, and booster club put into making this a special day for our kids. There simply are no words to describe the joy my own son has playing baseball every year.”

Vickie White is the mother of Corey and Tori, boy and girl twins with autism. They have participated for a few years and look forward to the day each year. “We just love it – every bit of it...” said Vickie. “My kids love to be cheered for and Tori especially looks forward to the pizza after the game.” Vickie especially enjoys seeing Corey’s para-professional root for him in the stands, along with all the fans in the crowd. “I love sitting and watching my children have such joy. We left feeling so uplifted,” she added.

Coach Morgan agreed and shared, “This is one of the best days of our year. Sometimes former players, who are playing baseball in college, come home on this day for the main purpose of seeing their buddy.”

After the baseball game, the players were awarded trophies and enjoy pizza donated by Hideaway Pizza. Special thanks to our generous sponsors, WEBCO Industries, Cyntergy AEC, Arvest, Hideaway Pizza, TGI Enterprises, who supply the t-shirts, World Baseball Outreach who supplies helmets, bats and gloves and to all the fans who come to cheer for the teams. Finally, a huge thank you to the Jenks Baseball teams, parents and coaches who made this awesome event possible. Special thanks to the Jenks Booster Club Parents who served to make this a fantastic event for all involved.

The Autism Center of Tulsa’s mission is meeting the needs of individuals and families affected by autism and related neurological disorders to improve quality of life. The Autism Center of Tulsa provides programming that supports its mission in a variety of ways, including community awareness and outreach, early screening and intervention, safety, parent and professional information and training, as well as family support and on-site resources. For more information about the Autism Center of Tulsa, go to [www.autismtulsa.org](http://www.autismtulsa.org).

Winning 6A State Championships in 1997, 2000 and 2002, Jenks Trojans Baseball is committed to excellence both on and off the field. For more information about Jenks Trojans Baseball, go to [www.jenksbaseball.org](http://www.jenksbaseball.org)

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