



Contact: Holland Nickerson
PR and Communications Coordinator
Children's Home Association of Illinois
Phone: 309.687.7268
Email: hnickerson@chail.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Negro League baseball player, Dennis Biddle to visit Children's Home Youth Farm campus

Presented by: Ameren Illinois

Peoria, IL – Dennis Biddle, former Negro League baseball player, will be visiting Children's Home's Youth Farm campus on June 28, 2019 from 1:00-3:00p. He will be bringing his traveling display of memorabilia to share his experience in the league with the youth. This opportunity is possible through the generosity of Ameren Illinois.

"It is important to understand history and what came before us. Ameren Illinois has allowed for this great opportunity for our young people to learn firsthand about the Negro League," said Matt George, CEO of Children's Home. "Dennis' story will leave a lasting impact."

Following in the footsteps of Jackie Robinson, Biddle, the youngest player to ever play in a Negro baseball league, made his debut as pitcher at age 17 in the 1950s for the Chicago American Giants. During his pitching career, Biddle beat Gerald (Lefty) McKinnis, one of the few pitchers to beat legendary Negro League and Major League baseball pitcher, Satchel Paige. This earned him the nickname of "The Man Who Beat The Man Who Beat The Man." After suffering from a career-ending injury during spring training with the Chicago Cubs, Biddle became a social worker in Wisconsin and worked for 24 years in the corrections system in the state of Wisconsin. Today he travels around ensuring the legacy of the players in the Negro League lives on.

"The obstacles overcome by Dennis and his generation of Negro League players offer a powerful lesson to young people searching for direction and inspiration," said Richard J. Mark, chairman and president, Ameren Illinois. "We're excited to partner with Children's Home to bring this unique and positive message to the youth in our region."

Media is welcome to attend. We ask that you please arrive at 1:30 pm. The event will take place in the SEAPCO Academy gymnasium, located on the Youth Farm campus- 7225 W Plank Rd Peoria, IL 61604. For more information, please contact Holland Nickerson at 309-687-7268 or by email at hnickerson@chail.org.

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CHILDREN'S HOME ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS has been caring for the children and families in our community for over 150 years. Operating from various locations in the community, our staff of 400+ professionals is committed to providing hope to the 1,700 children and families we serve each month. Children's Home serves the young people in our community in over 40 placement, community-based, education and clinical programs. We are changing and saving lives.