

**Good Day Mr. Johnston,**

**Just wanted to say thanks from the Dunbar Boy's Track team. You have made this season possible to endure. We really appreciate all your work and efforts for giving these student-athletes these wonderful gifts. We look forward to working with you in the future.**

**Thanks,**

**Marcus George** (Head Track & Field Coach, Dunbar Vocational High School, Chicago, IL)

**Dear Mitch,**

**I would like to thank you for the kind words that you had for my team and also for the shoes that you gave them. Thank you very much.**

**I will see you at the state championship in May and God Bless You for all the good work you do.**

**Thank You!**

**Coach Robell McMiller** (De La Salle, Chicago)

*Mitch and Winged Foot Supporters -*

*Your donation of trainers and spikes is greatly appreciated.*

*Numerous boys on the team used their new shoes this weekend at the Peoria Invitational. Many runners commented on the difference they felt in running in spikes or running shoes - several set PR's at the meet.*

*Thanks for allowing runners from underprivileged families to have an opportunity to compete.*

**Coach Dave Sayner** (West Chicago HS Boy's Cross Country, West Chicago, IL)

Mitch,

*Thank you for your continued support over the years. It helps our team tremendously and we have had great success the last few years including back to back city championships. We have another strong team returning and another shoe order will always help. We also thrive in the jumps so if you have any jump spikes in the 10-12 range that would be awesome.*

Thanks!

**Coach Harris** (Morgan Park Track & Field Coach, Chicago, IL)

Good Evening Mitch,

*I pen this communication with one purpose in mind, and that is to say thank you for the generous gift of new spikes, running shoes, and apparel for the members of our Track and Field team. Your desire to touch the lives of our students demonstrates your compassion and we are touched by your kindness and the thoughtfulness of the WFF. This act of goodwill is one that is appreciated and will be remembered for years to come.*

**Dr. Rivers** (Principal, Cottage Grove Middle School, Ford Heights, IL)

Mr. Johnston,

*The Shepard Lady Astros Track Team is so grateful for your donation of running shoes and spikes to our program. At our pre-season meeting, we had over 90 young ladies attend. I attribute this great turnout to when I went around to classes to promote the track team, I had mentioned do not let not having running shoes or the money to buy running shoes keep you from being a part of our track team. And that a great program, The Winged Foot Foundation, had donated pairs of running shoes and spikes to help students get involved in the great sport of track & field.*

*Being involved in extracurricular activities is so important for our students at Shepard and everywhere. Many of our athletes in the past have not had proper running shoes and ran the whole season without ever stepping foot into spikes because they could not afford them. This will no longer be a problem thanks to you. We are so thankful for your foundation.*

Thanks,

**Coach Scot Rybarczyk & the Shepard Lady Astros Track Team** (Palos Heights, IL)

Mr. Johnston,

*Many thanks for your generous shoe donation. The Rich Central Girls Track Team really appreciates the Winged Foot Foundation. Let us know if there's anything we can do for you.*

Thanks,

**Ron Lynch** (Rich Central Girls Track & Field Coach, Olympia Fields, IL)

Mitch,

*Thank you so much for coming to visit our track and field practice a couple of weeks ago! Thank you also for the donated racing spikes! They will certainly be put to good use.*

*Our girl's track and field program has blossomed to over sixty student-athletes this current season. We are excited about the opportunity to have ALL of our student-athletes competing in the proper equipment. In fact, last week I gave a pair of new racing spikes that you delivered to a student-athlete that was working out in the same shoes that she had before last year's track and field season. She was thrilled and is wearing them proudly! Her personal best in the pole vault at Friday night's meet was probably aided by better footwear. Thank you again!*

*If there is an opportunity to receive more donated racing spikes from your foundation, please let me know. It is great to know that there are former track and field stalwarts working to promote the sport of track and field.*

**Lance Pacernick** (Head Boys Cross Country Coach/Head Girls Track & Field Coach, Waukegan High School, Waukegan, IL)

Mr. Johnston,

*"My son Johnny Dickson runs for Thornridge High. At his last track meet I climbed into the bleachers to find him lacing up new trainers and spikes! I was so moved by how elated he was to receive brand-named shoes right before a meet. High five to Mr. Johnston (who personally delivered them) and to the other charitable champions at Winged Foot Foundation. Not only did you provide quality athletic shoes for our son, my husband and I smile at the money we saved. Many Thanks!"*

Sincerely,

**Pamela Dill** (Thornridge High School Parent, Dolton, IL)

Hey Mitch,

*My girls are saying hello to you, they really, really appreciate the blessings the Winged Foot Foundation has bestowed onto them! Thanks again, from the Niles West Lady Wolves!*

**Coach Blair** (Niles West Track & Field, Skokie, IL)

*Good morning Mr. Johnston,*

*On behalf of our track and field team at Fenger Academy, we would like to say "Thank You" for truly kicking off our season with a tremendous BANG!! We have been able to practice properly with the training shoes and it has reflected through all the success we have had thus far. The track shoes have made us a competitive team with our eyes focused on taking them down to Eastern Illinois University! We look forward to maintaining a great relationship with the Winged Foot Foundation.*

*Thanks again,*

**Karl Villanueva** (Head Fenger Track & Field Coach, Chicago, IL)

*Mitch,*

*So interesting to hear your story and hear what you are doing for kids.*

*Sounds crazy, but just earlier today, Jimmy asked to go to our equipment room to see if some of our old Alumni donated shoes would fit him. He has borrowed size 9 spikes at the end of last year and through this year. And, today you gave me some boxes of shoes and spikes, one pair a size 9. We caught up with him before he left and they fit perfectly.*

*A retired colleague of mine told the story about starfishes on the beach and the questions that were asked about the person turning them over. Someone said, you can't turn them all over, why bother. The reply was "I can do one at a time". That is what we are about and I already appreciate the hope you have given these kids.*

*I look forward to working with you.*

**Coach Paul McLeland** (West Chicago High School Track & Field Team, West Chicago, IL)

Mr. Johnston,

Words cannot even begin to describe how thankful we are for your donation to Southside Occupational Academy! Thanks to your donation, we were able to enter our 1<sup>st</sup> Special Olympics team soccer competition! Our athletes won the silver medal in our division and played awesome! The shoes and soccer cleats that were donated made it possible for us to compete! Thanks again so much!

Sincerely,

**Melissa Garritano** (P.E. teacher/coach, Southside Occupational Academy, Chicago)

Thank you Mitch for all that you do,

Your organization has provided shoes to our youth athletes for two years. We are very blessed to have you in our lives.

**Nicole Lincoln** (Coach at Rush Athletics USA, formerly Illinois Rush TC)

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of the King College Prep girls and boys track teams, we would like to thank you for your generous donation. Your donation has played a part in our success this season and both teams are very grateful. Both teams send their thanks and appreciation and we look forward to participating in the Sprint Spectacular

**Wendy Moore** (Girls Head Track & Field Coach, King College Prep High School, Chicago)

Mr. Johnston,

I would like to thank you for supporting our team in donating the shoes. We greatly appreciate it. The girls are happy to be able to get shoes that will help them continue their training. I as a coach am humbly thankful that there is a foundation that helps children to be able to live out their dreams. It makes them feel good that someone is thinking of them.

**Nicole Keys-Reaves** (Assistant Track Coach, Morgan Park High School, Chicago)

Mr. Johnston,

A simple "Thank You" cannot cover the depth of appreciation I have for your foundation's generous gift of running/training shoes to my school. Your gift makes it possible for us to compete on a level previously unattainable due to budget limitations. My students now have access to top-of-the-line equipment that enhances their performance and self-esteem.

Many thanks for the generosity of the Winged Foot Foundation.

**Chad Adams** (Principal, Sullivan High School, Chicago)

Hi Mr. Johnston,

I'm Nikki Atwood, former runner at Hillcrest High School. I was part of the Track & Cross Country teams. I really appreciated all you have done for me. Giving away all those free running shoes and all the nice gear was the best thing ever. I think it's really nice for you to give away things like that. I know everyone can't afford to buy the best running shoes or the gear. I still have shoes from you and gear that you gave to Coach Braden. You guys really care about your athletes. I'm now in my second year of college and I can tell you running as a collegiate athlete was the best thing that happened to me.

College has allowed me to experience a different level of running. Competing in the Jayhawk conference, I had a good year last season for track and making this season even better. Making it to nationals in NY at the armory was mouth dropping and such a GREAT experience. I'm doing well in school with classes and really like my teachers. I've got to meet some amazing people here in KS which is awesome. I hope you're doing well and continuing to donate shoes.

**Nikki**

Mitch,

Thank you so much for the equipment. Our team and school really appreciate the proper running shoes & clothes so thank you again.

Sincerely,

**Sara Holic** (Manley High School, Chicago)

Mitch,

Thanks so much for the shoes.

**Katherine Cervenka** (Cross Country/Track & Field, Lake View High School)

Mitch,

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. We really appreciate the spikes for our cross country team. Hope to see you and Karen again soon. Take care.

**Ann Price** (Moose International, Mooseheart, IL)



Mitch,

The coaching staff and I thank you for the shoes you donated to the De La Salle Track and Field Team. Our athletes appreciate your thoughtfulness and acknowledge the spirit of your gift. They will make good use of them.

Sincerely,

**Robert McMiller & Roy Fleet** (Head Coach Track & Field/Assistant Coach, De La Salle Institute, Chicago)

Mr. Johnston,

Hope you are doing well. Many thanks for all the shoe sizes for our boy's track team.

Thanks for your help,

**Gary Ingram** (Calumet Middle School, Calumet Park, IL)

Hi Mitch,

Thanks for the shoes/spikes for our Boys and Girls! Once again I appreciate all of your help and we look forward to participating at the Illinois Sprint Spectacular track Meet this June.

**Wendy Moore** (Head Track Coach, Girls Track & Field. Dr. Martin Luther King College Prep High School, Chicago, IL)

Mitch,

Thank you so much for the big bag of goodies! I cannot wait to recognize athletes this upcoming week and “reward” them with new spikes to use for the season! Your foundation is just fantastic and I have been telling everyone who will listen about you. I will be forwarding pictures within the next week or two to post on the WFF website. Al and I wish your foundation nothing but success. We look forward to partnering with you in June for the Illinois Sprint Spectacular as we would be happy to volunteer our time. Thank you again, I’ll be in touch.

**Sally Pagnusat** (Girls Head Track & Field Coach, Joliet West High School, Joliet, IL)

Mitch,

I cannot begin to thank you for contributing shoes and spikes for our team. The athletes and I are ecstatic about this season. We have many athletes who would be injured if not for your efforts. If we can ever be of service to you please let me know.

Sincerely,

**Mike Garcia** (Track & Field Coach, Lanphier High School, Springfield, IL)

Good Morning Mr. Johnston,

This is Melvin Caldwell, the new track coach at John Hope High School located In the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago. I just received the shoes/spikes from your foundation this morning. I am so pleased that there are enough shoes/spikes for both our girls and boys track team. As you may know, most of my athletes cannot afford track spikes, so we really appreciate your organization’s assistance.

Thanks again,

**Melvin Caldwell, Ed. D.** (Head Boys Track Coach, John Hope High School, Chicago)

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I would like to personally thank you for sponsoring King College Prep High School Track Team. The girls were really excited about all the equipment and were glad that you and your foundation could support their dreams. Just seeing the smiles on their faces made my job as a coach a little bit easier. The girls look forward to participating in the Illinois Sprint Spectacular June 1, 2013.

Thank you,

**Sade Henderson** (Head Track Coach, King College Prep High School, Chicago)

Mr. Johnston,

I want to thank you for donating the track shoes & spikes. Our first track meet is tomorrow. The athletes and I are very grateful to you. Thanks for everything.

**Marcus Howard** (Track Coach, Ripley High School)

Mitch,

Thank you for everything you have been doing for us. Special thanks for providing the HJ spikes. I'm hoping these shoes will help improve the performances for our 6'8" high jumper.

Respectfully,

**Justin Edgecombe** (Track Coach, Hillcrest High School, Country Club Hills, IL )

Mr. Johnston,

Thank you for the trainers, spikes and running clothes for the Girls Orr Academy High School. We are looking forward to a successful season and the Winged Foot Foundation Illinois Sprint Spectacular in June

**Kendalle Delaney** (Head Girls Track & Field Coach, Orr Academy High School, Chicago)

Hello Mitch,

Just got some time to sit down and express my thanks for the shoe drop off. We were able to use all the shoes for both the boys and girls. Not everyone got a pair but they all found a home. The kids were ecstatic and asked me to send you their thanks. It was like Christmas in March for them. Thanks again. Your program is great. Once again if you need anything please give me a buzz.

**Joseph Occhipinti** (Throws Coach, Lane Tech High School, Chicago)

Mitch,

Hi there! Thank you for the donation of shoes/spikes, it is truly appreciated. Also, our athletes are looking forward to the June 1<sup>st</sup> track meet.

**DeAnna Riley** (School Administration Manager/Track Coach, Harlan Community High School, Chicago)

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I would like to thank you once again for honoring me as the Winged Foot Foundation 2012 Student Athlete of the Year. I appreciate all of the gifts that you've given me, including the plaque, trophy and the bag. My family and teammates are very proud of me and I will continue to make you and them proud.

Sincerely,

**Marlon Britton** (Leo Catholic High School, Chicago)

Dear Mr. Johnston,

Hello my name is Dion Parker. I am a track and football athlete at Eisenhower High School. I feel I'm the kid that is probably not the fastest but I will sure work hard to be the fastest. I was in need of track spikes and I received a pair from my coach today, and he told me they were donated to us from you. I recently met you and it was a pleasure; now knowing what you do for high schools around the area I admire you for your caring work. I can speak for my track team that we appreciate it. Mr. Johnston I just want you to know how greatly appreciative I am for what you are doing for all of us.

Sincerely,

**Dion Parker** (Blue Island, IL)

Mitch,

Thanks for the shoes and spikes. We'll see you again on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Bloom.

**Ed Schmeski** (Track Coach, Rich South High School, Richton Park, IL)

Good morning Mr. Johnston,

I hope you are having a great day. Thanks again for all the shoes and spikes, our kids appreciate them. I also have a list of those individuals whom have committed to running the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Sprint Spectacular Track Meet on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Bloom HS in Chicago Heights. Thanks for all your help Mitch.

**Arturo Gamez** (Track & CC Coach, Benito Juarez High School, Chicago)

Mitch,

This is Charles Larson, head boys track coach at the new South Shore International College Prep High School. We are a brand new high school and a brand new track and field program. Thanks for donating all the shoes & spikes for this upcoming outdoor season. Our team also looks forward to the Illinois Sprint Spectacular in June.

**Charles Larson** (Head Boys Track Coach, South Shore International College Prep High School)

Mitch,

Thanks.

**Jermaine Bulie** (Head Girls Track Coach, Rich East High School, Park Forest, IL)

Mitch,

Thanks for the shoes for our boys and girls track teams. The student/athletes and families in North Lawndale thank you for your generous support. I look forward to meeting you too.

Respectfully,

**Brian Billings** (Head Coach, Johnson School of Excellence, Chicago)

Hello Mr. Johnston,

This is Coach Marcus Pass from Leo High School and I would like to personally thank you for donating shoes to my cross-country team. I apologize that I wasn't able to sit down and meet with you along with Coach Adams, but I am also attending graduate school working on my master's degree in journalism. I can't thank you enough for what you did for my young men. They really enjoyed the shoes and looked good running in them.

I really appreciate everything that you do for Leo High School and this kind gesture meant a lot to me and the team.

Thank you again and God Bless,

**Coach Marcus Pass** (Leo High School, Chicago)

Mitch,

Thanks again for everything. I looked over the equipment and it looks great!!! We look forward to competing in the upcoming track season and at the Illinois Sprint Spectacular in June.

**Gabe Harris** (Coach, Morgan Park High School, Chicago)

Mitch,

I would like to thank you and the nominating committee for selecting Marlon Britton as the Winged Foot Foundation 2012 Athlete of the Year. On behalf of Leo High School, our Community, and our Track team, we are indeed grateful to you for recognizing Marlon's accomplishments and for your ongoing support of our track program.

Marlon's dedication and commitment as a student athlete to our track team is to be lauded and is most certainly, appreciated and recognized by all those involved at Leo. We are confident that your efforts will inspire other to exhibit excellence in track and field.

Once again, thank you for your dedicated effort directed toward track and field. It is exciting to see the Winged Foot Foundation support track & field and cross country so enthusiastically.

**Edward Adams** (Track and Field coach, Leo High School)

Mitch,

It was great meeting with you this morning and learning more about the WFF. We really appreciate all the gear. Thanks again for everything you are doing for my guys! GO WEST!

**Jason M. Aubry** (Head Football Coach, Head Track and Field Coach, Physical Education. Joliet West HS)

To: The Winged Foot Foundation,

I think this foundation was a GOD send. We needed trainers and spikes for the girl's teams (Thornridge Cross Country and Track and Field) and I was told about this foundation through a fellow track coach. I e-mailed Mr. Johnson and he quickly got back to me, a couple of days later I had shoes/spikes for my girls. I really feel this organization blesses the teams that are less fortunate and we really appreciate it.

Thank you,

**Coach Catron** (Head Coach, Thornridge High School)

To: Winged Foot Foundation,

We are so appreciative to benefit from the Winged Foot Foundation. I can't tell you how many injuries my athletes suffer due to improper gear. They were all so grateful for this surprise. I know these trainers and spikes will enhance our performances. Thanks to your foundation, the running program at Rich South HS will be better than ever.

Sincerely,

**Ron Lynch** (Head Coach, Rich South Girls & Boys Cross Country)

**Marcyio Chachakis & Derrick Gordon** (Assistant Coaches)

Mitch,

I just wanted to say thanks to you and the Winged Foot Foundation for your generous donation of the running shoes as well as the cool sheik Brooks Racing spikes. Without these donations, my student athletes would not have such a quality shoe to run or practice in.

You should have seen their faces light up and smiles emerge when they saw the shoes. It was amazing! Most all of my student athletes come from families that are at or below the poverty level, struggling to make ends meet. They can now compete and enjoy the competition and the practicing because they have shoes that will help keep them from injury from a bad shoe. Anyway, thanks again soooooo much to you Mitch and the Winged Foot Foundation for your generous donation to the Rich East High School Boys Cross Country Team. It is very much appreciated. God Bless!

**Kevin Kredens** (Head Coach, Rich East High School Boys XCcountry/Asst. Coach Girls Track & Field/XCountry)



Mitch,

Your foundation is a God send to a team like Rich East High School. Due to the economic make up of our community, many of my runners can't afford to buy running shoes or running clothes. Your shoes & clothes donation have made a significant impact on our team. And for that, we're extremely grateful!

**Coach Christv Cook** (Rich East HS. Girls Cross Country)

Hey Mitch,

Thanks again for coming by and talking to the team... it is so good for them to hear a different voice...I hope it will energize the team...and as always thank you SO MUCH for the help with the shoes... the kids are working so hard!!!

**Brian Evans** (Thornwood High School, Head Track & Field Coach, South Holland, IL)

Mitch,

Thanks again for the shoes it really helps. We had only one athlete with a 3 mile time under 20 minutes two weeks ago. Now we have 5 under 20 minutes!

**David Stanko** (Coach, Boys Cross Country, Rich Central HS, Olympia Fields, IL)

Mr. Johnston,

Thank you for ALL that you have done for the Bloom Township Cross Country programs.

Yours in running,

**Andrew Schmitt and Huey Johnson** (Coaches, Bloom Township HS)

Mitch,

Thank you for the shoes & spikes. These kids will be so excited!!!!!!

**George Friel** (Coach, Forest Trail Middle School, Park Forest, IL)

Mitch,

Thanks for all the shoes and spikes you provided for our cross country team. We race tomorrow!

**Julie Fox** (Girls Cross Country Coach, Eisenhower HS, Blue Island, IL)

Mr. Johnston,

I just wanted to send along my thanks for the help you are providing our student/athletes here at Hillcrest. I have not had the opportunity of meeting you, but I knew you were working with Ron Towner; and he was our liaison for both Track and Cross Country. However, since he left, I appreciate that you are still working with us. Your program definitely fills a need, and I know that our athletes are fortunate to have organizations like yours helping us. I appreciate the help Coach Kasley is providing, making this connection with you.

I look forward to meeting and talking with you in the future.

**Joe Banach** (Hillcrest Cross Country Coach)

Mitch,

Thank you very much for the trainers. The kids really appreciate you thinking of us and all you do for us.

**Neil Miguez** (Boys Cross Country Coach, Eisenhower HS, Blue Island, IL)

To Winged Foot Foundation,

On behalf of the North Lawndale College Prep Track & Field Program and me, we would like to thank Mitch Johnston and the Winged Foot Foundation for their support and equipment donations to our athletes. We look forward to participating in the Winged Foot Foundation's Illinois Sprint Spectacular in June.

**Coach Z. Johnson** (Head Coach, North Lawn College Prep Track & Field)

Mr. Johnston,

I'm glad that I had the chance to meet you yesterday and learn more about the WFF. Thanks again for your donation of shoes/spikes/running clothes.

Sincerely,

**Famous Hulbert** (Head Football & Boys Track & Field Coach, Proviso West HS, Hillside, IL)

Dear Mitch,

We have a large number of students out for the team and we do not make official cuts so we really appreciated all the shoes you were able to provide.

Thank you for all your help!!

**Angie Pacetti** (Track Coach, Washington Jr. High School, Chicago Heights, IL)

Mr. Johnston,

I had the opportunity to meet you at Thornton Township High School's Track and Field Banquet last year. At that time, I was able to see visibly the support and thoughtfulness your Winged Foot Foundation demonstrated to the athletes at Thornton High School.

Since then, I have been selected to coach Dirksen Middle School Track Program. I am no stranger to coaching, as I have been coaching cheerleading for over 20 years; and during those 20 years, I have yet to witness an organization that supports athletes, at the level of your Winged Foot Foundation.

I have spoken with several track coaches (Coach T.J. Shirley and Coach Ben Averyheart) and because of their high recommendations; I am contacting you to request the Winged Foot Foundation, to assist Dirksen Middle School student athletes, by means of, supplying running and racing shoes.

The Coaches of Dirksen Middle School track team, and the Administration team, will greatly appreciate any support that you can provide for our student athletes. Thank You!

**Coach Mae Brown** (Dirksen Middle School Track & Field)

Mitch,

Thank you for all the shoes and spikes. The team really appreciates all this equipment.

**Coach Haywood Richmond** (South Shore HS, Girls Track Coach, Chicago)

Hey Mitch,

Thanks again for coming by and talking to the team... it is so good for them to hear a different voice...I hope it will energize the team...and as always thank you SO MUCH for the help with the shoes... the kids are working so hard!!!

**Brian Evans** (Thornwood High School, Head Track & Field Coach, South Holland, IL)

Mr. Johnston,

Again, I want to thank you for your support. The kids are looking forward to training and competing in their new shoes and spikes.

**Josette Perkins** (Head Coach, Girls Track & Field, Hammond HS, Hammond IN)

Mitch,

Thanks for the shoes. We appreciate all you do for our athletes.

**Tashanna Gillenwater-Caton** (Girls Track Coach, Thornridge HS, Dolton)

Mitch,

On the behalf of the athletes and coaching staff at Eisenhower High School in Blue Island, I want to say thank you for your generous donation of shoes/spikes for our kids.

To be honest, I thought the Winged Foot Foundation was too good to be true. I was wrong. It was better than I could've imagined.....your turn around was within 72 hours of sending you a list of 18 different sizes. At most I expected a few pairs not a delivery of two large bags, completely full! I have a great group of kids who have been training in high tops and are so excited to train in their new running shoes.

Thanks for helping us out this season.

**Coach John Duckhorn** (Head Coach, Eisenhower Boys Track & Field Team, Blue island, IL)

Mitch,

Many thanks for all the shoes/spikes, just what we needed to start the season right.

**Bill Griffin** (Bremen High School, Midlothian, IL)

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I, Thomas Nelson, would like to thank the Winged Foot Foundation for the support during our 2011 track season. Due to the efforts of the Winged Foot Foundation, in providing running shoes and track spikes to the Carver Military Academy Track Team, this equipment finally gave us the edge we were missing. The Carver Track Team qualified for state for the first time in twenty years. I just can't say enough about the support that the WFF organization provides and the plus to that, our students are encouraged to improve and take their performances to the next level. Thanks very much.

Sincerely Yours,

**Thomas Nelson** (Head Track Coach, Carver Military Academy, Chicago, IL)

Mitch,

The students, parents, and staff at The Johnson School of Excellence thank you for the shoes and spikes. Our track teams were so excited to try on the shoes yesterday and can't wait for racing to begin! Your shoes donation has provided many of our student/athletes with safe footing for the many miles they will run and sprint this spring. Thank you again and good luck to all the track athletes and coaches in Illinois.

**Coach Billings** (The Johnson School of Excellence, Chicago, IL)

Mitch,

Thanks for allowing us the opportunity to have shoes & spikes donated to our children on the Track & Field Team. The kids appreciated all the shoes & spikes. We have already visited the website, and see that your organization truly "IS" making dreams come true around the Chicagoland area. Keep up the good work and we'll keep in touch.

Thank you,

**Coach Travis Morris** (Hammond High School, Boys Track & Field Team, Hammond, IN)

Mr. Johnston,

Thanks for dropping off the shoes my guys will appreciate them. If there is anything we can do for you just give me a call or send me an e-mail. Thanks again.

**Del Trowell** (Kankakee Boys Head Track Coach, Kankakee, IL)

Good Morning MJ,

Our X-Country season is wrapping up on a very high note. Our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade girls Cross Country team has done exceedingly well throughout the season. We had our entire girls team qualify for the Northside Sectional meet last weekend. We were in the top 5 girls teams in our "Network" of Chicago (there are 14 different networks). We were the 4<sup>th</sup> place girls team which qualified us for the sectional race. At the sectional race, the girls ran excellent times ranging from 11:17 to 12:48 for the 1.5 mile race. However, due to the stiff competition, only one of my girls qualified for the City Championship. Brenda Nevarez ran an 11:17 and got 51<sup>st</sup> place. The top 7 girls teams and the top 20 individuals qualify for the City Championship. Brenda got to the 20<sup>th</sup> spot! She will be running the City Championship on Saturday afternoon, competing against the top runner in the City of Chicago. Brenda is one of my 7<sup>th</sup> grade runners too. The whole team is really excited for her and my top 5 girls said that they would still practice with her this week, even though they know they will not be running.

We had an amazing season so far, and the season is not over. The girls are loving the new running clothes, shoes, and socks Winged Foot Foundation has donated to our school. Having new shoes really helped boost their excitement for running and are extremely thankful. They were shocked that there were people out there that would just give them shoes (in good condition) so that they could run. As my 8<sup>th</sup> graders ended their season, I am trying to instill in them the importance of being "life-long runners" and doing cross country, or other sports, in high school. From all of the runners at Cleveland School, thank you!

I will let you know how Brenda does at the City Championship. We are hoping for another PR and we'll be ready to hit the City strong when she is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader with more running experience.

**Mr. Stephen Rogers** (Mathematics Inclusion 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>, Grover Cleveland School, Chicago)

Mitch,

Thank you so much for having us as a part of your foundation. On behalf of Saucony, it is our pleasure to be involved with such a gracious and committed group. Your leadership, of the Winged Foot Foundation, sets the precedent for such work. Your organization, motivation, and passion for running illuminate your presence to the student-athletes and their community. Your work is what we strive for and is the reason we enjoy our partnership with you. To take a line from the Saucony philosophy '*A good day is when we run, a better day is when we motivate someone to run*'. Your agenda reaches further than just these athletes. It gives back to the larger picture, running, and it builds the sport by providing those without vision an opportunity to excel.

I am looking forward to discussing future events. Again, thank you,

**Gregory Udzielak** (Shadow Rep | Midwest Saucony, Inc)

Mitch,

Just a note to thank you for the shoes you donated to the Students at Oscar DePriest Elementary School. They are very excited about the running shoes and are ready to compete on a higher level. Hopefully your generosity will encourage them to continue with the sport throughout their lifetimes.

Sincerely,

**Mary E. Holmes** (Mary E. Holmes Coach, Oscar DePriest Elementary School, Chicago, IL)

Mitch,

Thanks!!! It is always good to talk to people like you from back in the day. We are using all the trainers/spikes you provided. The kids appreciate everything they have been given, especially those green carry-all bags. Thanks for everything. Thanks for everything.

**Bob Moffett** (Track Coach, Roosevelt Jr. High School, Dolton, IL)

Mr. Johnston. Winged Foot Foundation,

On behalf of the Foreman Boys Track and Field team, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of shoes and spikes. Our boys have been using them over the last week and half the team has improved. Injuries are down and our performances are up. We ran our fastest times of the season last Saturday at Mather.

Thank you,

**Coach Matthew Lewis** (Head Boys Cross Country/Track Coach, Foreman High School, Chicago, IL)

Mitch,

I wanted to thank you for the shot put shoes, our team really appreciates them.

**Chris Whitfield** (Shot Put/Discuss Coach, Thornton HS, Harvey, IL)

Mitch,

Thanks for your kind letter and shoe request form. Attached are the sizes that our students need. Whatever you can do would be greatly appreciated!

**Lisa West** (Principal, Hamlin Upper Grade Center, Alsip, IL)

Dear Mr. Johnston,

Thank you for your generous of shoes for our track team. The students were extremely excited and grateful. Have a wonderful day.

**Sandra Williams** (Lincoln School, Calumet City, IL)

Mitch,

We can't thank you enough for your recent donation of shoes. It's all great stuff and I know we will get lots of use out of them. Please know how much you've helped our student/athletes and our team.

We all appreciate it very much.

Thank you for the generosity!

**Brian Weslev** (River Forest Jr/Sr High School Head Boys Track Coach. Hobart. IN)

Mitch,

I am writing to thank the Winged Foot Foundation and Mitch Johnston for the fantastic shoes and equipment for our cross-country program at Rosa Parks Middle School.

We started our program from scratch two years ago (track and field) and added Cross-Country last year. We don't have a track or much space to practice. We run most of the time on the sidewalk around our school. Because of these factors, it is really important for our athletes to have supportive shoes. Unfortunately, most of them don't have acceptable footwear and don't have the means to get them.

Mitch contacted our school in the summer and offered the help of the winged foot foundation. With the delivery of equipment this month, we have now outfitted over 25 athletes with appropriate footwear and have several pairs of beautiful track/xc spikes for the program to use. The organization also unexpectedly provided some workout clothing (not surprisingly, proper gear is also an issue). Needless to say, many of the kids who received equipment were ecstatic.

Thank you winged foot foundation! Your help means a lot to us!!

**Rob Lininger** (Head Coach, Rosa Parks Cross-Country, Dixmoor, IL)



Mitch Johnston,

On behalf of Leo Catholic student track athletes we would like to thank you and the Winged Foot Foundation for the tremendous kindness support you gave to the track team with the donation of running shoes. We needed training shoes. This past Saturday they received their shoes before practice. Thanks again for your support and generosity.

What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others remains immortal. -Albert Einstein-

**Edward Adams** (Track Coach, Leo Catholic High School)

Mitch,

Thank you for all of the shoes and gear that you dropped off. If it is possible we do need more training shoes sizes 9-13. BLUE SMOKE greatly appreciates all you do for our student athletes. We appreciate all the support that we get from alumni; we are working extremely hard to maintain the standard of excellence that past teams have worked hard to accomplish. We are looking forward to a great season. If any alumni would like to come and talk to the student athletes we would love to hear from you. We often speak of the alumni and their accomplishments it would be great if the athletes could meet alumni. The team is very grateful for the shoes and clothes that are sent our way; as all of you have experienced we run outside daily. Once again thank you for everything and we look forward to seeing you at some of our meets. "BLUE SMOKE FOR LIFE"

**T.J. Shirley** (Thornridge Head Boys Track & Field Coach)

Mitch,

We really appreciate all the shoes and gear. I also would like to thank you gain for speaking; the focus of the team has been much better since your talk. Saturday we had an ok day, we won a twelve-team invitational.

Talk to you soon,

**Vince McAuliffe** (Thornton Head Coach Girls & Boys Track & Field Teams)

Mitch,

Thanks for all the shoes. We put all but 4 pairs of shoes to work, and I am sure those will find feet soon. Mitch, you have been an absolute blessing to our program. We have a big Invitational at Bloom on April 25, if you can make it; the kids could have a chance to thank you themselves. You are always otherwise welcome to stop in too.

**Andrew Schmitt** (Bloom Trail Technology Coordinator/  
Head Coach Bloom Township Boy's Track & Field)

Mitch,

Lots of exciting things happening this year...Thanks again for all the shoes.

**Brian Evans** (Head Coach, Thornwood High School Track & Field)

Mitch,

The kids like the stuff you brought them and were using the clothes just yesterday. Thanks again Mitch, you're a terrific guy!

**Ben Averyheart** (Track Coach, Brooks High School)

Hey Mitch,

Wow, you work fast! Thanks so much for your generosity.

**Jon Trapani** (Head Coach, Proviso West)

Mitch,

The team and I thank you for your support and we were able to put the equipment/shoes you provided to us to good use!

**Leon Gordon** (Track & Field Coach, Urban Prep Charter Academy)

Mitch,

The kids really appreciated the running shoes, spikes and clothes. Many thanks.

**Huey Johnson** (Head Coach Cross Country, Bloom Township High School)

Mitch,

We are going downstate as a team!!! We did it with your help!!! We took 5<sup>th</sup> in a story book finish. My fifth runner at the 1 ½ mile marker was in 101<sup>st</sup> place and finished in 41<sup>st</sup> place. She passed 12 girls in the last 100 meters; we took 5<sup>th</sup> by 9 points only 2 points out of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5 points from 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thanks again for the spikes & trainers!!! We leave Friday for Peoria!!!

**David Braden** (Cross Country Coach, Hillcrest High School)

Mitch,

I wanted to thank you for the generous donation to the Hillcrest Cross Country teams this past season. Several of the members of our team were not able to get themselves the proper footwear for the season and your kindness could not have come at a better time! The girl's team was the first in the school's history to qualify for state this year and they were running on shoes from your foundation! Thanks again!

**Ron Towner** (Head Track Coach, Hillcrest High School)

Mitch,

Thanks again for everything, the guys very much appreciate all you and the foundation do.

**Derek Augustynowicz** (Head Boys Cross Country Coach, Thornridge High School)

Mitch,

Thanks for the cross country spikes for my top six girls at TR.

**Al Llorens** (Head Girls Cross Country Coach, Thornridge High School)

Mitch,

We can't thank you enough for your recent donation of shoes. It's all great stuff and I know we will get lots of use out of them. Please know how much you've helped our student/athletes and our team. We all appreciate it very much. Thank you for your generosity!

**Brian Wesley** (Head Boys Track Coach, River Forest Jr/Sr High School)

Mitch,

Thanks again for everything, the guys very much appreciate all you and the foundation do.

**Derek Augustynowicz** (Head Boys Cross Country Coach, Thornridge High School)

Mitch,

Again, I want to thank you for inviting and helping our kids to participate in the Turkey Cross Country Classic. The kids had a great time and they are bragging about it all over the school. It was something that students here at Brooks rarely if ever have the opportunity to participate in. They got muddy, they got wet and they were cold but best of all they had fun. You did it Mitch and I can't say it enough, you are a hero to my kids. Thanks again.

**Ben Averyheart** (Cross Country & Track Coach, Brooks School)

Mitch,

I would like to thank you once again for the very generous donation of running shoes to the River Forest Lady Ingot Track & Field Team. The ladies were so grateful to be running in real running shoes. Myself, the other coach, and the team also noticed that there were less injuries during the season. I think this was due in part to the ladies having proper equipment to perform in. I am so glad the boy coach Brian Wesley told me about your foundation. You are doing such great things for the track & field teams of the greater Chicago land area!

Musically,

**Mrs. Lauren J. Knust** (Choir and Theater Director/Girls Track & Field Coach)

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I would like to express my appreciation on behalf of the Leo High School track team. We are grateful for the practice shoes and spikes that you donated to the program. It's made a difference to the entire team.

During the last two invitationals we have placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, and our times and distances have improved. The training shoes have also helped us participate in workouts without us feeling pain while running.

Once again, we are appreciative for the kindness and generosity you have shown towards the Leo Catholic High School track team.

Sincerely,

**Raymond Harris** (Leo Catholic High School)

Mr. Johnston,

Again T.F. North thanks you and your organization for the much needed training and running shoes. In the near future you should receive something from my AD (Ms. McLaughlin). God Bless the Winged Foot Foundation!

**Moses Hulbert** (Head Track Coach, TF North High School)

Mitch,

I got the shoes and wanted to thank you. I am so excited to give them to the kids. I will take pictures and pass them on to you. Thank you so much!!!

**Katie Flood** (West Belden School)

Good Morning Mitch,

My runners have been so excited to get new shoes and running attire. All of my runners now have shoes to run in! We are all ready for our first meet on Tuesday. They were shocked that there was an organization that gave out free running shoes. My runners say thank you for the shoes and running gear.

They have seen their times improve and their muscles hurting less this week due to your quality running shoes. They have been given the task this weekend to get out and run at least 4 miles on their own to get ready for Tuesday's meet.

On Tuesday, I'm going to try and get a team picture to send to you so you can see our runners absolutely exhausted and fulfilled. Blessings on your weekend!

**Mr. Stephen Rogers** (Grover Cleveland Jr. High)

Dear Winged Foot Foundation,

Thank you for helping me prepare for this track season. This is my first year running track at my new school and I was inspired by Coach Adams to run track. So I thank you for your support.

Thank you again,

**Quinton Jordan** (Leo Catholic High School)

Dear Winged Foot Foundation,

Thank you for the track shoes. Also I want to say they are very very nice and my mother loves them to. I think you all are very wonderful people for giving me these shoes. I just want to say they feel great and I love the color of the shoes they match my uniform. Now I am doing better than I did on the first day of track. At first I could only run one mile and now I can run three miles. Thank you very much and stay and be blessed.

**Morton Foster** (Leo Catholic High School)

Dear Winged Foot Foundation,

I would like to thank you for donating and supplying me and the team with new running shoes to use. You have really helped a lot of Leo men out and I would like to say thank you. I'm sure the entire team will appreciate your generosity, and care along with the donation you're giving. In closing, I just want to say thank you again.

**Broderick W. Bailey** (Leo Catholic High School)

Dear Winged Foot Foundation,

Thanks for the shoes. I really appreciate this kind gesture. I'm going to really work hard. I need these shoes so I can run faster and do better so I can help the track team. I hope I can have a better season and get better times with my new cool shoes.

**Kwame Saro-Wiwa** (Leo Catholic High School)

Dear Winged Foot Foundation,

I would like to thank you for the shoes you gave me for the track season. I really needed them because if it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have any shoes to wear for the season. So I'm glad you gave me the shoes and hopefully I would have a good season because of you.

**Alfred Townsend** (Leo Catholic High School)

Dear Winged Foot Foundation,

I'd like to thank you for your donations to Leo H.S. Track Team. You have helped a lot of people, including me. Once again, I'd like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**Jeremy Clark** (Leo Catholic High School)

Hello Winged Foot Foundation,

I would like to thank everyone for the shoes that I was provided with. I would also like to compliment this foundation on their outreach to help the community. Track is a great sport, thanks for a safe place to go and be while going through this track season.

**Darnell Harris** (Leo Catholic High School)

Hello Mr. Johnston,

I'm a Track & Field runner from Leo High School and I would like to thank you for donating shoes for me to run in. I greatly appreciate it Sir.

**Edward Vaughn** (Leo Catholic High School)

Dear Winged Foot Foundation,

Thank you for the wonderful shoes. I honestly appreciate them from the bottom of my heart. I will run my hardest at every meet that I use them in. Thanks for everything; I will not let you down.

**Marlon Britton** (Leo Catholic High School)

To Whom This May Concern,

Thank you for supplying my team and me with new running shoes for this season. We appreciate the WFF donation of shoes and we all thank you. You have helped us a lot and we will make your shoes look great. I will run hard at all my meets and give it all I got. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and feet.

**Shondel Thompson** (Leo Catholic High School)