



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 15 Scholarships
- 1st Annual Softball Tournament
- Baseball Clinics
- Prime40 Prospects
- Lino Rivera inducted into the PR Hall of Fame
- Serie del Caribe, Miami
- Student Testimonials

Transforming Futures Through Baseball and Softball- now on the CECFL special list of nonprofits in Puerto Rico dedicated to eradicating child poverty.

In November 2024, the Senate's Special Committee approved the addition of the Foundation to the list maintained by the Special Joint Committee on Legislative Funds for Community Impact ("CECFL" for its Spanish acronym) of approved nonprofit entities operating in Puerto Rico dedicated to eradicating child poverty. This exciting development demonstrates our commitment to transforming the lives of children from economically disadvantaged communities on the island by providing unique opportunities to achieve superior athletic and academic success.

The Foundation is a nonprofit organization organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and certified as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and Section 1101.01 of the Puerto Rico Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation is also registered as a nonprofit on the list of the Special Joint Committee on Legislative Funds for Community Impact. As a nonprofit dedicated to eradicating child poverty, the Foundation is eligible for all donations required under Act 22-2012 and Act 60-2019. 100 percent of all donations go to fund the Foundation's mission. This is possible because our founder, Tom Axon, personally pays all of the Foundation's administrative expenses and salaries.

Report on Puerto Rico's Participation in the Perfect Game 12U Tournament (July 24)

On July 24, a talented group of young baseball players, representing the Criollos de Caguas traveled to Jupiter, Florida to compete in the Perfect Game 12U tournament, one of the most prestigious youth baseball events in the U.S.A. They were outfitted in specially designed uniforms provided by the Foundation. Unfortunately, the team lost in the first round. There is always next year, as they say.

JULY 24, 2024



AUGUST 1, 2024



OUR LATEST SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

Spotlight on Scholarship Recipient Yaslianne Osorio

Yaslianne Osorio, a 10th-grade student at Puerto Rico Baseball Academy High School in Carolina, Puerto Rico, is one of our proud scholarship recipients. A dedicated student-athlete, she is committed to both her academic and athletic pursuits.

Yaslianne recently competed in our inaugural Softball Tournament, showcasing remarkable talent and determination. Her commitment to both the classroom and the field positions her as a promising future leader.

We look forward to following Yaslianne's journey and are excited to see where her hard work takes her. Stay tuned for more updates on her and other young athletes in future newsletters.

Her coach proudly exclaimed to us that "Yaslianne is a highly skilled and hardworking athlete, known for her versatility on the field. She excels in any position and demonstrates great effort and dedication in every game. With a strong work ethic and a willingness to learn, she has incredible potential and is ready to take her game to the next level."

Celebrating Lino Rivera's Induction into the Puerto Rican Sports Hall of Fame

Spectrum of Success!

We are proud to announce that our colleague and supporter, Lino Rivera, was inducted into the Puerto Rican Sports Hall of Fame on October 13. This prestigious recognition honors his exceptional career as both a professional baseball pitcher and manager. His career spans nearly 40 years, and includes him brilliantly skippering teams to league championships in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico. Currently, this winter he is leading the Los Yaquis de Obregon of the Mexican Pacific League as their new manager.

Lino is a steadfast supporter of our foundation. We are incredibly grateful for his contributions, including his role in organizing events and positively impacting countless lives. Lino's passion and leadership continue to inspire us, and we look forward to his continued involvement in future initiatives. Congratulations, Lino, on this well-deserved honor!

OCTOBER 13, 2024



SWIPE FOR MORE

Camino Al Plato Softball Tournament Recap

The inaugural Camino Al Plato Softball Tournament took place from August 30 to September 1, featuring six teams from across Puerto Rico: Arecibo, Barceloneta, Maunabo, Guaynabo, Salinas, and Guánica. Girls aged 12 to 18 competed in a dynamic and competitive event that showcased teamwork and sportsmanship.

Tournament Results:

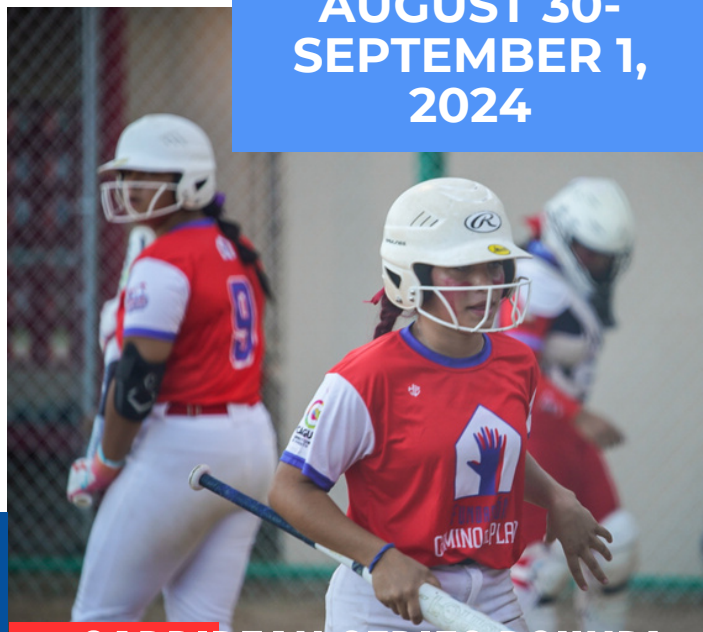
- 3rd Place: Arecibo – \$700
- 1st & 2nd Place Tie: Maunabo and Guaynabo – \$2,250 each

Both Maunabo and Guaynabo shared the top prize after an outstanding display of athleticism and camaraderie. We extend our gratitude to the players, parents, and supporters who contributed to the success of this tournament. We look forward to hosting more events like this in the future!

"The event was energetic, very satisfying, and well-organized. The competition was strong, and the awards ceremony was excellent." –Participant Family Member

PLAY BALL!

**AUGUST 30-
SEPTEMBER 1,
2024**



CARRIBEAN SERIES BOUND!

Camino Al Plato at the Caribbean Series: A Memorable Experience

This year the Foundation was a principal sponsor of the Serie de Caribe 2024, a tournament crowning one team with the honor of being tops in the Caribbean and Latin America. This year for the first time the event was held at an MLB Stadium (LoanDepot Park, the home of the Miami Marlins). A number of the games were sold out, with attendees including fans of all ages, famous musicians, professional athletes, and actors and actresses enjoying more than a week of baseball at the highest level.

The Foundation was front and center enriching the fan experience for attendees with interactive activities for lovers of the sport of all ages. This included baseball trivia, a "Running Around the Bases" competition for kids, and exciting giveaways, such as signed baseballs by Carlos Beltrán and exclusive Camino Al Plato Foundation merchandise.

One excited parent approached our tent during the event, thanking us for supporting young athletes through baseball and shared, "If you had been around when I was a kid, I never would have stopped playing." This heartfelt message reminded us of the powerful impact we have on the community. The event not only allowed us to engage with fans but also gave us a chance to promote our mission and create lasting memories for baseball fans of all ages.



FEBRUARY 1-9, 2024



SWIPE FOR MORE

Support for Puerto Rican Baseball Talent at Prime40

The Foundation was a proud sponsor of Prime40, held this year from May 14-15 at Yldefonso Solá Morales Stadium. The Prime40 is an event showcasing the best 40 high school baseball players in Puerto Rico, two months prior to the MLB rookie draft. Scouts from over 20 MLB teams attended this year. The Foundation donated the uniforms worn by the players and supported event logistics, contributing to a successful experience for all involved.

Among the top 40 high school players were two of our scholarship recipients, Joey Solá and Orlando Cruz,, as well as Jeremy Martinez, son of Gil Martinez (a director of the Foundation and president of the Puerto Rico Scouts Association). This event was a rare opportunity for top high school talent to demonstrate their skills prior to the draft. Many scouts commented on the wonderful job the Foundation is doing on developing future MLB talent.

MAY 14-15, 2024



PRIME 40

Recap of 2024 Free Clinics: Engaging Over 1,000 Young Athletes



Free Clinics Around Puerto Rico

This year, the Camino Al Plato Foundation has already hosted five free clinics across Puerto Rico, providing baseball and softball training to over 1,000 young athletes. These clinics, designed to give kids the opportunity to improve their skills and connect with the game, took place in the following locations:

- Sabana Grande (February 17): Held at the Estadio Rafael Milan de Padro, with around 80 participants. The clinic was attended by the local mayor, adding to the community spirit of the event.
- Hato Rey (March 20): Hosted at the Parque de Las Monjas, this clinic welcomed over 100 children.
- Caguas (April 13): Despite rain, we held a successful clinic at the Parque de Béisbol del Barrio San Antonio, with strong participation from the local community and support from the Caguas municipality.
- San Juan (September 18): At the Parque de Las Monjas, 180 children participated in this clinic, led by Lino Rivera, Gil Martinez, and Miguel Tejada. *See the article on the next page.*
- Las Piedras (October 29): This clinic, led by Gil Martinez and a team of professional players, managers, and scouts took place at the Estadio Francisco Negrón Díaz in Las Piedras, bringing together 300 aspiring young athletes. *See the article on the next page.*
- On December 2, we will also be holding a clinic in Dorado at Parque Tomás Palmares..

These clinics were an incredible opportunity for kids across Puerto Rico to learn, grow, and enjoy the sport of baseball. We are proud to be part of their journey and look forward to continuing to offer these valuable opportunities in the future.



BATTER UP!

OCTOBER 29, 2024



Las Piedras Clinic

On October 29, we hosted a successful free baseball clinic at Estadio Francisco Negrón Díaz in Las Piedras, in partnership with the Las Piedras Municipality. The clinic drew 300 young participants who received hands-on training from players and coaches of the Puerto Rican Baseball League (LBPRC), as well as scouts from several MLB teams. The event emphasized teamwork and skill development, while also offering valuable resources for players and families on achieving success on the field and academically. Indeed, a special session for parents on navigating various college scholarship opportunities was also conducted.

Notable figures from Puerto Rican baseball, including Vimal Machín (Los Criollos de Caguas), Bryan Torres (Los Gigantes de Carolina), and Ismael Salgado (Los Criollos de Caguas), volunteered their time to mentor the kids. MLB scouts from teams such as the Chicago Cubs, Miami Marlins, and Los Angeles Dodgers were also present to evaluate talent. We were also assisted in running and organizing the clinic by staff, students, and three of our Puerto Rico Baseball Academy scholarship recipients—Orlando Cruz, Ryan Lopez, and Josnel Ortiz.

The clinic was a team effort and a great opportunity for young athletes to learn from some of the best in the game. We look forward to hosting more clinics in the future.

SWIPE FOR MORE

OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL CLINICS!

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024



Miguel Tejada Clinic

On September 18, 2024, we hosted a highly successful baseball clinic at Parque de Las Monjas in San Juan, where 180 young athletes participated in skill-building sessions led by Lino Rivera and Gil Martinez. The clinic brought together local professional players and coaches, providing valuable hands-on training and mentoring for the participants.

A standout moment was the participation of Miguel Tejada, former MLB All-Star, 2002 AL MVP, and inducted member of the Oakland A's Hall of Fame, who interacted with the kids, sharing his vast experience as a top shortstop in Major League Baseball. Tejada's insights on leadership, technique, and perseverance left a lasting impact on the kids.

Under Lino Rivera's and Gil Martinez's expert guidance, the clinic offered a unique opportunity for young athletes to learn from seasoned professionals. We are proud to have provided such an inspiring experience for the next generation of baseball players in Puerto Rico.

"The clinic was an incredible experience for these young athletes. It provided them with not only the opportunity to learn from some of the best in the game but also the chance to connect with scouts, coaches, and peers who share their passion for baseball. This is exactly the kind of event that empowers the next generation of players and gives them the tools they need to succeed both on and off the field." - Parent of one of the participating parents

Our Commitment to Shaping Future Stars: 15 Scholarship Awardees

At Camino Al Plato, we are proud to have awarded 15 scholarships to deserving young athletes at three prestigious schools in Puerto Rico: Carlos Beltrán Academy, Puerto Rico Baseball Academy, and Christian Leadership Academy. These scholarships, valued at approximately \$6,500 per year, cover tuition and are committed to supporting these students throughout all of their high school years. We take great care in selecting each scholarship recipient, personally meeting with the students and their families to understand their goals. Our team regularly checks in on their academic and athletic progress, ensuring they receive the support they need to excel both in the classroom and on the field. We are proud to help these young athletes pursue their dreams and continue their education while developing their baseball and softball skills.

Here are the 15 scholarship awardees and their respective schools:

Carlos Beltrán Academy:

1. **Joey Rosa** – Position: Infield – Grade: 12th
2. **Kevin Natal** – Position: Pitcher – Grade: 11th
3. **Emanuel Hernandez** – Position: Infield – Grade: 10th
4. **Yanciel O Cruz** – Position: Infield – Grade: 11th
5. **Sebastian Baez** – Position: Infield – Grade: 10th

Puerto Rico Baseball Academy High School:

1. **Orlando Cruz** – Position: Outfield – Grade: 12th
2. **Ryan López** – Position: Outfield – Grade: 12th
3. **Dylan Díaz** – Position: Outfield – Grade: 12th
4. **Yaslianne Osorio** – Position: Outfield and Pitcher – Grade: 10th
5. **Natalia Ruiz** – Position: Infield – Grade: 11th
6. **Dariele Lebrón** – Position: Outfield – Grade: 11th
7. **Josnel Ortíz** – Position: Outfield – Grade: 12th

Christian Leadership Academy:

1. **Alan Gibbson** – Position: Infield – Grade: 11th
2. **Jedriel Villegas** – Position: Infield, Pitcher, Catcher – Grade: 10th
3. **Daniel Alvarado** – Position: Infield – Grade: 11th

We are excited to see these young athletes grow, not only in baseball but also as scholars and leaders. Their hard work and dedication inspire us all, and we look forward to supporting them throughout their academic and athletic journeys. Stay tuned to future newsletters where we will be sharing more information and updates on these remarkable young athletes and their progress!

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.caminoalplato.com

Social MediaAccounts:

Facebook- Fundación Camino al Plato

Instagram: @caminoalplato



**FUNDACIÓN
CAMINO AL PLATO**

Bottom of the 9th with Tom!

The Camino Al Plato Foundation was founded in 2022 by Thomas Axon, a passionate advocate for Puerto Rican baseball and the dreams of our youth. Since its inception, Tom has not only been the driving force behind the foundation but also its main donor, ensuring that 100% of donations go directly to our cause. **He covers all administrative expenses (including staff salaries), so every dollar raised helps support our baseball and softball community, providing the resources needed to create opportunities for our young athletes.**

Tom works tirelessly to uphold his commitment to Puerto Rico's baseball community, striving to give local talent the best possible chances to succeed and achieve their dreams. His dedication has been recognized with the foundation's recent addition to CECFL's special list of non-profits in Puerto Rico dedicated to eradicating child poverty, a significant step forward in strengthening our mission.



**Thomas Axon &
Ruben Escaleras**

Join Us in Transforming Lives Through Baseball and Softball

At Camino Al Plato, we are dedicated to transforming the lives of young people through the power of baseball and softball. But we cannot do this alone. We need your support to continue fulfilling our mission. Every donation, no matter the amount, helps us provide scholarships, equipment, and clinics that open doors to a brighter future for our children.

We invite you to join us in this effort. With your generosity, we can continue to make a lasting impact, one child at a time. Thank you for being part of this cause and for helping us shape the future of Puerto Rico's next generation of baseball stars. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



DONATE TODAY!

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.caminoalplato.com

Social MediaAccounts:

Facebook- Fundación Camino al Plato

Instagram: @caminoalplato



PayPal