

## Building the Future of Baseball: The Foundation's Second Inning



### 2024 AT A GLANCE

- 15 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS
- 8 CLINICS, ATTENDED BY HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN AND DOZENS OF SCOUTS
- SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT, SIX TEAMS
- SPONSORED 2 SCOUTING EVENT TOURNAMENTS

### DIBAT Tournament Success

*The acclaimed international youth baseball tournament, DIBAT, began on February 1, 2025, bringing together young athletes from Puerto Rico, United States (outside of Puerto Rico), Australia, the Netherlands, Japan, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, the Czech Republic, Aruba, Germany, and Colombia to compete with passion and commitment. The Foundation proudly sponsored the event, supporting the development of youth sports and highlighting their ongoing commitment to young athletes.*

*The final game matched Puerto Rico against Aruba. Puerto Rico emerged victorious in the tournament, showcasing our island's talent and determination. The Foundation congratulates the players and encourages the community to continue supporting young athletes who represent their countries with pride. The grand final took place on February 8th.*



### Gil Martínez Throws First Pitch in DIBAT Finale

Gil Martínez, a former professional player and current Director of the Foundation, took the spotlight as he threw the first pitch at the Dibat tournament's baseball finale where Puerto Rico took on Aruba and Puerto Rico ultimately took the win. In addition to his leadership at the foundation, Martínez is the President of the Scouts Association and works for the Puerto Rico Baseball Academy High School, while also coaching aspiring athletes. His presence at the event reflected his deep commitment to both sports and education in Puerto Rico.

SWIPE FOR MORE

## Inaugural Softball Clinic: Salinas

*On February 18, 2025, the Foundation hosted its very first softball clinic in Salinas, Puerto Rico, with approximately 60 young female athletes in attendance. The clinic offered an invaluable opportunity for skill-building, featuring expert coaching and guidance from Alexis Barbosa, Coach of the 18U National Team, and Adrix Paradizo, Coach and player for Arecibo in the Softball Superior League. The girls received hands-on instruction and gained meaningful insights into improving their game. This inaugural event marked an exciting milestone for the Foundation, providing a platform for athletic development and fostering a strong sense of community.*



## Sponsors World Class Training Center Opening

*The Foundation continues to hit home runs for youth athletes, and recently, it was a proud participant in the grand opening of the Puerto Rico Baseball High School Academy's World Class Training Center in Caguas. This state-of-the-art facility features batting simulators, fitness areas, and more, all located at the Complejo Deportivo del Este in the municipality. The Foundation played a key role in sponsoring the creation of facility, which held its grand opening on January 20, 2025. This new facility is another important step in the Foundation's ongoing mission to support and empower young athletes across the island.*

## Support Local Youth Team with Uniform Donation

*In a generous gesture of support, the Foundation recently donated new uniforms to the Glenview Ponce Team 9U, as they prepare for the American Congress de Puerto Rico Categoría Jackie Robinson U9, División Roberto Alomar Temporada Regular 2025 tournament. This donation will help the young athletes compete in the upcoming season with pride, ensuring they are well-dressed for their exciting journey ahead. The Foundation remains committed to promoting community development and supporting the next generation of athletes in Puerto Rico.*



# Super Bowl Fundraising Event



## 2024 AT A GLANCE

- 15 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS
- 8 CLINICS, ATTENDED BY HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN AND DOZENS OF SCOUTS
- SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT, SIX TEAMS
- SPONSORED 2 SCOUTING EVENT TOURNAMENTS

*We are thrilled to share that our recent fundraising event, held at Medalla Arena in San Juan, was a huge success, raising almost \$200,000. One hundred percent of all donations will be used to further the Foundation's mission to provide academic scholarships, as well as to host baseball and softball clinics and tournaments, all in support of developing Puerto Rico's next generation. This event which was entirely paid for by the Foundation's founder and chief benefactor, Tom Axon, brought together our generous donors for an evening of celebration, where they enjoyed complimentary food and drinks, a big-screen view of the Super Bowl, and vibrant entertainment.*

*The night was made even more special by the presence of many of our supporters, who had the opportunity to meet and connect with some of the incredible individuals who benefit from our programs. We were honored to welcome scholarship recipients Yaslianne Osorio, Ryan Lopez, and Natalia Ruiz, along with their families. These bright young students embody the spirit of our Foundation, and it was a privilege to have them join us for such an unforgettable evening.*

*In addition, we were grateful to have the presence of our dedicated executives, staff, and volunteers, including Gil Martinez and Lino Rivera, who organize and run our clinics and events across the island. Their ongoing support plays a critical role in making our work possible.*

*A very special thank you goes out to the parents and children who have participated in our clinics throughout the years some of whom were able to join us at the Super Bowl party. It's heartwarming to see how these programs have helped so many young athletes discover their love for sports, particularly baseball and softball. We couldn't be prouder of their growth.*

*We are beyond grateful for your continued support in helping us transform lives through baseball and softball. In addition to hundreds of individuals who donated this year to the Foundation, we also are proud to have the financial support of Nationwide Specialty Insurance; Winston & Strawn; CBIZ; O'Neill & Borges LLC; O'Hare Parnagian LLP; Goldman Antonetti & Cordova, LLC; Rivera-Munich & Hernandez; Jan Photography; DarrowEverett LLP; Rottenstreich Farley Bronstein Fisher Potter Hodas LLP; Davidoff Hutcher & Citron LLP; Multicultural Capital LLC; Chapel & Assoc; PR Coins and Paul Favia.*

*Thank you for making this event a memorable success and for being part of the Camino al Plato family!*

## THE FOUNDATION'S NIGHT AT THE HANDLEBAR



Camino al Plato took its message to the Handlebar, San Juan's legendary hard rock bar, on February 8, 2025, where our friends, the rock band The Cutouts, performed two sets of rock and roll classics while raising donations for the Foundation. Lead singer and guitarist David Kalm credited the audience for its enthusiasm and its generosity to the Foundation and praised the Handlebar owners and staff for creating such an electric atmosphere and showing such amazing hospitality to both the band and the audience. A good time was had by all!

## Launch of the Orlando Cepeda Foundation



The launch of the Orlando Cepeda Foundation took place on December 6, 2024, at the Hiram Bithorn Stadium, honoring Orlando "Peruchín" Cepeda, who will always be remembered as one of Puerto Rico's most incredible baseball icons. It was a significant moment to celebrate his life and legacy. The event was held. During the event, Orlando "Peruchín" Cepeda's number was retired in honor of his outstanding contributions to the sport.

SWIPE FOR MORE

## VOICES OF IMPACT: TESTIMONIALS FROM BENEFICIARIES & INSTRUCTORS

"Thanks to the free clinics offered by Fundación Camino al Plato, my son developed a deep love for baseball. Today, he continues to play in the little leagues. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the foundation for making such a positive impact on the lives of children in the Caguas and Humacao areas"

-Fernando Rodriguez

"Thanks to the help of the foundation, my son is able to fulfill his dream of studying at a baseball academy. The support came at the perfect moment, when we needed it most, to help support our family and Ryan's dream of playing while earning an education."

- Jorge López &  
Ryan López

"I am very grateful to the foundation for allowing us to continue helping children through the scholarships they provide to our students at PRBAHS and for their commitment to guide these students."

- Galy Cruz

"I want to thank the foundation for bringing the clinics to Las Piedras, and especially Gil Martínez for making it happen and providing guidance for college placement, impacting the lives of children. Thanks to the clinic today, they now have the opportunity to participate in tryouts and continue playing the game."

-Edgardo Lebrón, Volunteer

"Thanks to the foundation, the free clinics provide valuable support to youth during challenging times, offering both on-field training and guidance on university opportunities, scholarships, and paths to success in sports."

-Jesrael Valentin, Pro Player

"I want to express my most sincere appreciation for the scholarship the foundation has given me. It has been an honor to receive this scholarship, and it has given me the opportunity to continue progressing both on the field and in my studies."

- Yaslianne  
Osorio, Scholarship Recipient

## Looking Ahead: Future Community & Fundraising Events



*As the Foundation continues to support the development of young athletes, we are excited to announce upcoming community and fundraising events. More clinics, baseball and softball tournaments are being scheduled. If you would like a clinic or other Foundation-sponsored event to be held in your local community, please reach out to us. A special 5K event in San Juan is also anticipated to be held in late Spring or Summer. These initiatives will provide even more opportunities for youth engagement and development through sports.*

### **Support the Future of Young Athletes**

*At the Foundation, we believe in the transformative power of sports to change lives. By supporting our programs and initiatives, you help provide children with scholarships to attend academic academies that would otherwise be unavailable to them. In addition to receiving a valuable education, our scholarship recipients also develop life skills by competing in baseball and softball. Your donation plays a crucial role in funding our clinics, tournaments, and events, ensuring we can continue our mission to empower the next generation of Puerto Rico's youth.*

*Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference. Join us in making a lasting impact—together, we can change lives and create brighter futures.*

**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.**



## **DONATE TODAY!**

**READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:**

[www.caminoalplato.com](http://www.caminoalplato.com)

Social Media Accounts:

Facebook- Fundación Camino al Plato

Instagram: @caminoalplato

