



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – APRIL 5, 2011

31ST ANNUAL CHANCE CRAWFORD BENEFIT SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SET FOR THIS MONTH

The 31st Annual Chance Crawford Benefit Softball Tournament will be held April 15-17 throughout the Roanoke Valley. The successful tournament is a regional effort put on by the cities of Salem and Roanoke and the counties of Roanoke and Botetourt.

Games will be played at the James I. Moyer Sports Complex - the tournament headquarters, the Botetourt Sports Complex and fields at the Salem Civic Center, Arnold R. Burton, Whispering Pines, Wasena Park, Huff Lane and Oakey's Field. This year's event will feature the following divisions - Men's B Open, Men's C, Men's D, Men's E, Men's Recreation and a Women's Division.

The Chance Crawford Softball Tournament began in the spring of 1981 to help a young Salem High School quarterback, Chance Crawford, who suffered a spinal cord injury during one of his football games. The purpose of the original event was to raise money to help Chance and his family with the expenses of his education, physical therapy and other medical needs due to his injury.

After Chance graduated from college he was elected Clerk of Court for the City of Salem and the Chance Crawford Tournament Committee decided to continue the tournament in his honor, but use the proceeds from the tournament to help those in need in the community with their own medical and education expenses.

In 30 years, the tournament has garnered over \$400,000, and put that money in the hands of individuals with health problems as well as deserving college students who need financial assistance. These funds are also used to help support youth sports throughout the greater Roanoke Valley.

This year, the Chance Crawford Tournament Committee will host a picnic for players and coaches, along with their families on Friday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Moyer Sports Complex. The evening's events will include dinner, a DJ, inflatable attractions for the kids, raffles, a skills competitions and the Homerun Derby sponsored by Worth.

For more information or an entry form, please call Salem Parks and Recreation at (540)375-3057 or visit the Chance Crawford Tournament Website at www.chancecrawford.org. The Tournament Director is Eric O'Brien, eobrien@salemva.gov

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