

FELLOWSHIP OPEN • August 14

Community Journal and home run legend Hank Aaron linked by history

Fellowship Open honors baseball great Hank Aaron for charity work

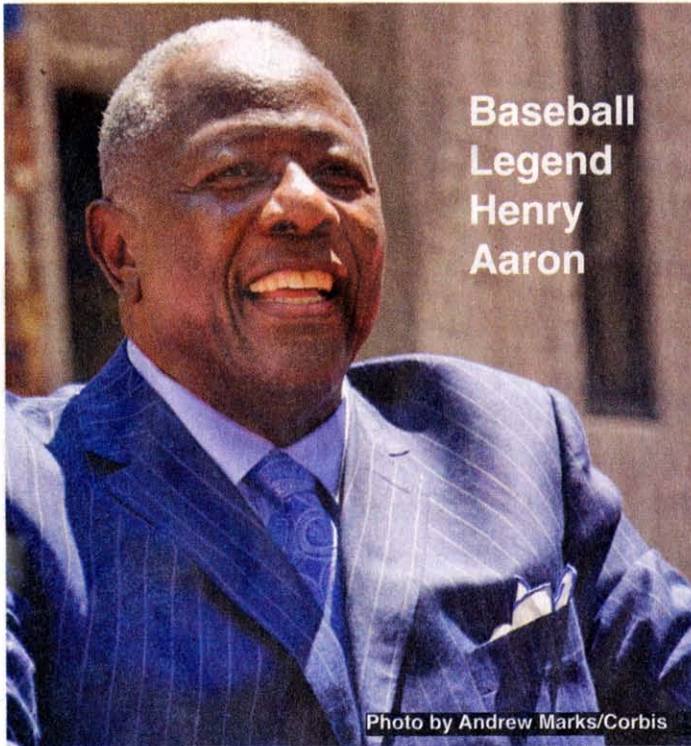


Photo by Andrew Marks/Corbis

The Milwaukee Community Journal, Wisconsin's most read African American newspaper, was founded in 1976, the same year baseball hall-of-famer Henry "Hank" Aaron retired from his record-setting career.

So as we celebrate our 33rd anniversary, we also celebrate the life and achievements of one of Milwau-

kee's most famous African Americans, Hank Aaron.

This year, the Fellowship Open, the annual charity golf tournament that promotes diversity and youth organizations in Milwaukee, is honoring Aaron with the Fellowship Open Legends Award. Each year, the Fellowship Open recognizes a member

of the community who is making a difference in the lives of children, and certainly Hank Aaron is well deserving.

Aaron began his Major League Baseball (MLB) career in 1954 and went on to play 21 seasons with the Milwaukee and Atlanta Braves, and two years with the Milwaukee Brewers. During his time in the major leagues, Aaron managed to shatter Babe Ruth's home run record by 41, win a World Series and secure the National League MVP honor on his way to becoming a baseball legend.

The impact Aaron's baseball career has had on the American sports world eventually landed him a permanent exhibit in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. However, Aaron's achievements off the diamond have proved equally, if not, more impressive.

In 1994, Aaron and his wife Billye founded the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation (HACDF) to help underprivileged children achieve their goals. The original goal was to help counsel 755 children in honor of the number of home runs Aaron hit during his MLB career. The Foundation surpassed that number.

The HACDF presents grant scholarships to children ages 9-12 in practically every field or interest, ranging from music to sports, science, leadership, literature and art. The grants are eligible for renewal each year until the student graduates from high school.

Recently, the HACDF has transitioned into a partnership run by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and funded by the MLB. The new program provides 44 children – Aaron's uniform number – with grants each year. Recipients must have strong academic credentials and demonstrate talent and desire in their fields of interest.

The charity work Aaron has contributed through the foundation the past 15 years coincides with the goals of the Fellowship Open, which aims to support children in all aspects of their development, including arts, technology, job skills and job readiness.

"Mr. Aaron has proven himself a legend not only in baseball, but in his dedication to helping improve the lives of youth," said John W. Daniels Jr., chairman of Quarles & Brady LLP and founder of the Fellowship Open. "The Fellowship Open is committed to helping Milwaukee-area youth as does Mr. Aaron and we are pleased to honor him with the Legends Award at this year's tournament."

The Fellowship Open will take place at Silver Spring Country Club on August 14. This year's event will benefit the African American Women's Fund, New Beginnings Are Possible, the Next Door Foundation, the Lighthouse Youth Center and a charity of Aaron's choosing. For more information, visit www.fellowshipopen.com.