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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Josh Whitfield Memorial Athletic Fund  
Partners to Impact Hundreds of Comstock Youth in 2018**

**Kalamazoo, MI** - Since its founding in 2015, the Josh Whitfield Memorial Athletic Fund (JWMAF) has distributed nearly \$15,000 to young athletes, their teams and organizations in the Comstock community. In an effort to increase the Fund's impact on elementary school youth and encourage a love for all sports, the JWMAF is partnering with the First Day Shoe Fund.

Thanks to its loyal and generous donors, the JWMAF will provide a grant to subsidize the First Day Shoe Fund's distribution of athletic shoes for Comstock youth in 2018 in its entirety. The First Day Shoe Fund provided 383 pairs of shoes to Comstock elementary students in 2017.

"The Josh Whitfield Memorial Athletic Fund advisory board is thrilled to partner with the First Day Shoe Fund," stated JWMAF Advisory Board Chair, Eric Stewart. "Providing hundreds of children with athletic shoes opens the door for full participation in recess, gym class, and other athletic activities that will enhance their education and their life. Josh would have been proud to make such an impact in the community he loved."

To donate to the JWMAF, please visit [jwmaf.org](http://jwmaf.org).

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*About the Josh Whitfield Memorial Athletic Fund*

The Josh Whitfield Memorial Athletic Fund was founded in 2015 after the passing of Josh Whitfield, a beloved Comstock alumni and multi-sport athlete. It is the mission of the Fund to reduce financial barriers for Comstock youth who seek to participate in athletics. Funds raised assist athletes in need by subsidizing activity fees and other supportive services. *Comstock Community Center* serves as the fiduciary of the JWMAF. For more information, visit [jwmaf.org](http://jwmaf.org).

*About the First Day Shoe Fund*

First Day Shoe Fund is a nonprofit that believes all children should start school on equal footing. First Day Shoe Fund is dedicated to providing new athletic shoes to school-age children in Kalamazoo County who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. To learn more, visit [firstdayshoefund.org](http://firstdayshoefund.org).