

Faces in the Crowd *(continued)*

Kevin Joyce

Runners, Inc.



Kevin Joyce, Technical Operations Manager for Runners, Inc. (www.runnersinc.com) is no stranger to multi-tasking. Kevin's love of baseball and helping others is reflected in his volunteer activities with the Oriole Advocates for the past 5 years.

The Oriole Advocates (www.orioleadvocates.org), a non-profit organization, founded in 1960 as a "sports booster" group, is dedicated to promoting and stimulating an interest in baseball at all levels. Their Charitable Foundation, consider funding requests from organizations for existing and developing programs in the Baltimore area and beyond. Special projects supported include the Advocates' Cardboard to Leather® program, that's provided good used baseball gear to underprivileged youth in the Dominican Republic, Belize, Cuba, and Nicaragua to replace makeshift equipment: tree limb bats and cardboard wrapped with tape for gloves.

Kevin's vice-chaired this committee for three years and says, "Since the program started, we've made 9 distributions — over 40 tons of baseball gear. Groups share equipment so more kids can use it." Committee

members meet twice a month and inventory donations for shipment.

Runners, Inc. helps with equipment storage space, and donations pay for shipping costs. The Peace Corps distributes gear based on the greatest need, to schools, orphanages, community groups and hospitals.

Little Leagues, local Recreation Departments and other groups donate equipment. The Baltimore Orioles support the Advocates effort to raise money at Camden Yards at Latino Night and provide valuable Baltimore Oriole Player items for silent auction.

The greatest payback is the look of joy on the children's faces when sharing the universal language of baseball! **MCW**



We welcome your submissions to this new column!