

## **SMOKIES, KIWANIS TEAM UP TO RECYCLE AT SMOKIES PARK**

**SEVIERVILLE, Tenn.** – The Tennessee Smokies and Sevierville Kiwanis Club joined forces this past Wednesday, May 14, at Smokies Park to help raise awareness about the importance of recycling. Over 6,000 kids came out to the team's Safe Kids & Health Awareness Day and looked on as the Smokies fought valiantly in a 3-2 loss to the Huntsville Stars. More importantly however, the fourth graders helped to recycle 166 pounds of aluminum soda cans, totaling over 5,660 cans.

"The Kiwanians' hard work and kids' participation definitely showed in Wednesday's numbers," says Lauren Chesney, Director of Community Relations for the Smokies. "We were glad to provide the Kiwanis Club here a platform to help raise awareness about such an important environmental issue and how the proper recycling of aluminum impacts all of our lifestyles. I definitely think we accomplished this."

Wednesday's effort by the Smokies and Sevierville Kiwanis Club doubled up a strong performance last year by the two organizations, in which about 2,700 cans were collected at the May D.A.R.E. Day game. Throughout Wednesday's game, kids were instructed to dispose of soda cans in special recycling receptacles located throughout the stadium concourse.

The Kiwanians in Sevierville began their recycling program last year and have recycled more than 1,000 pounds of aluminum cans to raise about \$725, funds used exclusively for the club's scholarship program. "The program keeps a sizeable number of aluminum cans out of the landfill," states Bert Byers, chair of the Kiwanis' recycling drive. "This is a win-win proposition. We teach young people the importance of recycling aluminum and keep cans out of landfills at the same time. Wednesday's outcome was tremendous and much appreciated."

The Smokies are currently on the road for a five-game series against the Montgomery Biscuits. The Smokies head back to Smokies Park on Tuesday, May 20, to welcome the Mississippi Braves for five games, followed by a second five-game home stand against the Carolina Mudcats from May 26-30. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.smokiesbaseball.com](http://www.smokiesbaseball.com) or by calling the Smokies ticket office at (865) 286-2300.