



Hall of Fame great **ANDRE DAWSON**

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Sharing Hall of Fame honors with Willie Mays as two of the three players in Major League Baseball history to hit 400 home runs and steal 300 bases over the course of their careers, Andre Dawson finds himself in the rarified atmosphere of baseball greats. Drafted in the 11th round of the 1975 amateur draft, Andre began his MLB career the following year for the Montreal Expos. Over the next 11 seasons he displayed his hitting and fielding prowess, amassing a .280 batting average, 225 home runs and 253 stolen bases. Traded to the Chicago Cubs in 1987 Andre blossomed in the Windy City with league-leading home runs 49 and RBI's 137. He finished his 21 seasons with the Boston Red Sox and the Florida Marlins.

Andre's efficient use of his five tools—speed on the bases, hitting for power, hitting for average, fielding prowess and powerful throwing arm earned these awards: 8 Gold Glove, 5 Silver Slugger, 8 All Star Games, 45th in all-time hits with 2774 and 34th in all-time RBI's 1591. He was inducted into the MLB HOF in 2010.



Born and raised in South Florida, Dawson, hampered by injuries as a young athlete, graduated from Southwest Miami Senior High School and improved his skills at Florida A & M University and the University

of Tallahassee before entering the professional ranks. Over the first decade of the 21st century, Andre has worked for the Florida Marlins Baseball Club as a special assistant of the president of the club. He has his own foundation that raises funds for cancer research.

In his HOF induction speech, Andre stated:

"Look at me and these incredible men who make up the Hall of Fame. They are proof of that. There are many of us up here who had nothing, who came from nothing, who wondered if nothing was all there ever was. But look at us. There is hope. But you can't get here by skipping school or disrespecting your parents or your teachers or your coaches. And you can't get here by dropping out of society. You can't get here if you believe you have nothing to lose out on the streets. You have everything to lose. But in this game you have everything to gain.

A lot of kids feel abandoned, and I understand that. Some of us know what that feels like. It's a tough road and it's unfair. But feeling sorry for yourself isn't going to save you. Baseball can. Baseball can be your salvation. I am proof of that. And if you can hear my voice today, you can stand here, just as I am today.

As my grandmother use to say, 'Take God with you. Get on our knees and believe it. Be thankful of the blessings before you receive them.' You can get left behind or you can get on board. Love this game and the game will love you back."

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AMERICAN BASEBALL FOUNDATION **LEAD-OFF DINNER**

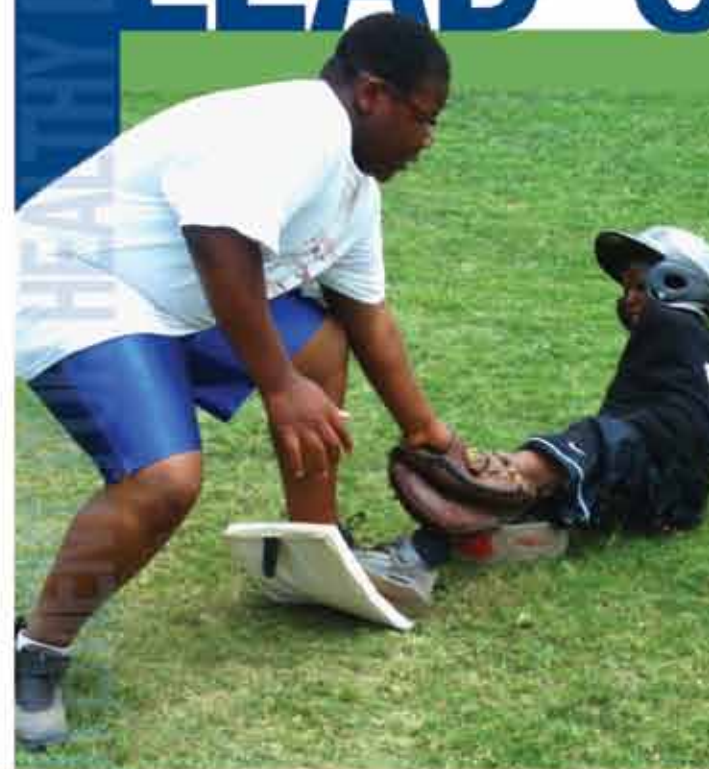
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The 11th Annual
**AMERICAN BASEBALL
FOUNDATION**



LEAD-OFF

2012



DINNER

Featuring Hall of Fame great **Andre Dawson**

Friday, February 3, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
At **THE CLUB**, 1 Robert S. Smith Drive,
Homewood, Alabama



Hosted by : The American Baseball Foundation Inc.

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AMERICAN
BASEBALL
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2012

LEAD-OFF DINNER



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Hall of Fame
great

**ANDRE
DAWSON**

GENERATING EXCITEMENT FOR HEALTHY LEARNING

Working with youth in the Central Alabama communities, the American Baseball Foundation Inc., a 501c3 organization, engenders the love of reading through its BASIC programs that feature sports role models and sport-skill instruction. ABF educational programs also include the dissemination of research as related to injury prevention in youth baseball pitching. Reaching out to suburban and to underserved children, the ABF strives to improve the community through the development of self confidence in academics as well as sport.

For more information about the 2012 Baseball Lead Off Dinner, call David Osinski at 205-558-4235 or e-mail or e-mail abf@asmi.org. Tickets may be purchased on the web at www.americanbaseball.org



February 3, 2012
The Club

6:30 p.m.
Cocktails (cash bar)
Ex MLB players
"signers' corner"
Silent Auction

7:30 p.m.
Dinner/Awards

Business Attire

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- Gold Medal Sponsor \$1,200 Table of eight
 - Reserved table for eight in priority seating area
 - Recognition in dinner program
 - Two invitations to VIP cocktail party
- Individual Tickets \$150
- I am unable to attend, but I wish to make a donation that will give underserved BASIC children the opportunity to attend.

To sponsor the 2012 Baseball Lead Off Dinner, please complete the form below. Sponsor donations are tax deductible, excluding the cost of the dinner.

Please make checks payable to American Baseball Foundation
Mail donations to: American Baseball Foundation
2660 10th Avenue South, Suite 620
Birmingham, AL 35205

Or pay by credit card:
Visa/MasterCard/Discovery/American Express only (circle one)

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