



Polls

What's The Best Way To Beat The Heat?

- Take a dip in a swimming pool.
- Stay inside with the AC on.
- Nothing. I love hot weather.

Show Results

Home > Business

Adjust font size: + -

Print this Page Email this Page

Pennington Says Thanks and Spreads Message

Posted Thursday, April 26, 2007 ; 06:00 AM
Updated Wednesday, April 25, 2007 ; 04:49 PM

Former Marshall University and now New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington was back in West Virginia to promote the 1st and 10 Foundation.

Story by Ann Ali Email | Bio

BELLE -- Plenty of people were taking his picture, but New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington's April 19 trip to Walker Machinery was more than the average photo-op.

Pennington and his wife, Robin, started the 1st and 10 Foundation in 2003. The foundation's mission is to build stronger communities by funding programs and institutions that seek to improve the quality of life in southern West Virginia, east Tennessee and the New York metropolitan area, as well as support leukemia research and patient/family services.

"It's always nice to come see familiar faces, and it's important to say thank you," Pennington said, "and, most importantly, to see these people up close and personal to thank them with anything we can do."

Pennington's tour through Walker Machinery was to thank the company and its employees for their donations to the foundation since it started.

Pennington said he comes home four or five times a year, and he's usually booked for many events. He said if he's away too long, he misses the mountains and biscuits and gravy, since New York is more bagel-friendly than biscuit-friendly.

Bob Pruet, former Marshall University football coach, accompanied Pennington, his former player, on what he described as a thank you tour.

"We just want to say 'thank you' to people who have supported us," Pruet said. "I'm trying to support him (Pennington) and help him out. He's got a lofty ambition."



From Our Sponsor:

- Shopzilla
- Bedding
- Coach Purses
- Gucci Handbags



Ex-NBA Referee Pleads Guilty

23 hours ago
Former referee Tim Donaghy pleaded guilty to two felony charges in connection with the NBA betting scandal...(more)



Tropical Storm Erin Heads Toward Texas

23 hours ago
Tropical Storm Erin formed in the Gulf of Mexico and headed toward Texas, threatening to bring downpours...(more)



### Toll In War's Deadliest Bombing Hits 250

1 day ago

Rescuers dug through the wreckage of collapsed clay houses in northwest Iraq, uncovering at least 250...(more)



### Can The Crumbling Berlin Wall Be Saved?

1 day ago

The Berlin Wall hasn't just fallen; it's falling apart. But a group of artists has banded together...(more)



### Britney's Love Life A Hot Tabloid Topic

1 day ago

As her custody battle with ex-husband Kevin Federline heats up, ex-staffers and other insiders start...(more)



Take this TO GO >



The 1st and 10 Foundation distributed more than \$201,000 in 2006 to organizations that fall in line with the foundation's mission. The B.C. McGinnis Unit of the Boys and Girls Club in Huntington purchased a new van with a \$20,000 grant, the Foundation for the Tri-State Community received a \$15,000 grant to build a new playground at Ritter Park and the St. Mary's Medical Center Foundation's H.E.A.R.T. program aimed at educating elementary students about heart disease risks received \$50,000.

"With our grant money, we want to affect and help as many organizations as we can, and across Southern West Virginia, there aren't many ... community centers," Pennington said. "So if you can build those outlets in smaller communities and give a higher quality of life, whether that's through community leagues or after-school activities, you can affect all age groups.

"Growing up, the community leagues I participated in were very pivotal in my success."

Pennington said he and Robin, who is from Boone County, thought the community spirit needed revived in a lot of communities, and contemporary, all-encompassing community centers that offer recreation through sports or movies would be the best way to serve southern West Virginia.

Steve Walker of Walker Machinery said the foundation does a great job, and he wanted to do anything he could to help Pennington promote his mission.

"His mission is part of our company mission," Walker said. "We want to be a good steward of the environment, but we also want to contribute to the community, both with dollars and opportunities."

Pennington said he received a lot of support from southern West Virginians as a student athlete, and he wants to give to the area.

He said he is fortunate to be able to provide every administrative and overhead cost so dollars donated to and raised by the foundation could go straight to the causes everyone wants to support.

"Every dollar goes back to the areas," he said. "We're just the vehicle for them. ... Leadership is about service, and once you learn how to serve, then you can learn how to lead."

The foundation has grown in its three years, and Pennington said good, local people are working behind the scenes as officers in West Virginia and Tennessee and also on the foundation's resource council.

"We're slowly getting more and more requests for grants from all over," Pennington said. "And we'll grant it as long as it falls within our mission statements."

He said his biggest goal for the foundation right now is to raise awareness followed by support.

"We want to focus on the team effort," he said. "If anyone has any concern, we want to know about it, but we think people see the hardcore evidence of what we're doing, that it's not just about talk."

For information about the 1st and 10 Foundation, visit [www.1stand10foundation.com](http://www.1stand10foundation.com) or e-mail [director@1stand10foundation.com](mailto:director@1stand10foundation.com).

**Copyright 2007 West Virginia Media. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.**

© 2007 [West Virginia Media Holdings, LLC](#)  
[WBOY-TV](#) | [WTRF-TV](#) | [WOWK-TV](#) | [WVNS-TV](#) | [The State Journal](#)  
[Privacy Policy](#)

Site Development and Hosting By [Citynet](#)

