



## Home Runs for Daunte and **Ready, Set, Smile™**

**Donate to Ready, Set, Smile™** /For Immediate Release: Dec 6, 2017

**Our video will make you SMILE: <https://vimeo.com/246027669>**

“Playing baseball makes me smile!” says Saint Louis Park 9<sup>th</sup> grader Sam Hunt. Sam is a switch-hitting catcher for [Hit Dawg Academy’s](#) 16U Dodger’s Scout Team, and for the [Saint Louis Park High School Varsity Team](#). Prep Baseball Report ranked Sam 46<sup>th</sup> nationally for the class of 2021. Sam Hunt smashes baseballs.

“One of my goals this year is to hit as many home runs as I can at the [International Power Showcase](#) at Marlin’s Park from December 26–31, 2017.”

Sam’s probably going to hit a few because he took [second place for his age group in the event](#) last year, hitting a total of 25 home runs. The International Power Showcase features 170 of the world’s best players representing 20+ countries. Sam will compete in the 15U and the underclassmen divisions this year. “I started training six days a week in August for the Power Showcase. Being good at baseball takes day-in and day-out practice and dedication.”

One of the coolest parts of the International Power Showcase is that all participants are required to take part in *Home Runs That Help*, a community outreach initiative of the International Power



Showcase. *Home Runs that Help* offers these talented young baseball players an opportunity to give back to their local community by raising money for a local charity.

## Only brush the teeth you want to keep!

Raising awareness and funds for Daunte Ndemo and [Ready, Set, Smile™](http://readysetsmile.org) (readysetsmile.org) was a natural fit for Sam. He knows what tooth pain feels like. Sam has had a cavity, and he's



had to have multiple teeth pulled, including one adult tooth to make room for braces. "I can't imagine living every day with tooth pain or visible tooth decay. How would I stay focused in school and on the baseball field? I would not be able to train for, or participate in the Power Showcase. If my teeth were bad, how would I

feel about smiling? How would I make friends or get a job?" Practicing good oral hygiene is like baseball training and getting good grades: it's a day in and day out commitment to be your best self every day.

## A child's future starts with a healthy smile

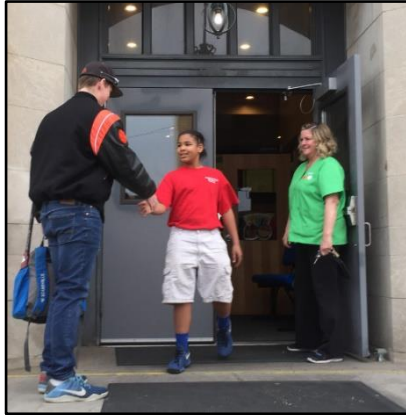
[Ready, Set, Smile™](http://readysetsmile.org) serves children in their school settings who face barriers to dental care. [Ready, Set, Smile](http://readysetsmile.org) is unique because it takes a broader view of children's dental services with a focus on prevention and education. [Ready, Set, Smile](http://readysetsmile.org) partners with nine Minneapolis elementary schools and five preschools to deliver education, preventive services and treatment for tooth decay. These schools enroll a high percentage of families living in poverty. [Ready, Set, Smile](http://readysetsmile.org) empowers youth and their families with the information they need to have good oral health and prevent decay from forming in the first place. [Ready, Set, Smile](http://readysetsmile.org) is getting terrific results for children and families with their pragmatic, preventive approach.

Daunte Ndemo and his family have been helped by [Ready, Set, Smile's](http://readysetsmile.org) program at Sojourner Truth Academy in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Daunte is a bright and enthusiastic 6<sup>th</sup> grader with a big personality and a warm smile. He's an animated storyteller who loves math, science and sports. Daunte's favorite sport is football, but he loves baseball and basketball too.

Daunte's Mom is a mother of 4 boys, works two jobs, including one as a school bus driver. Getting the kids to the dentist is difficult. Daunte's Mom was unable to find a dentist to restore Daunte's front teeth after he chipped them playing basketball. His Mom was told that medical assistance does not cover cosmetic dentistry. Daunte had chipped teeth for 2 years before [Ready, Set, Smile](http://readysetsmile.org) began their



oral health and education program at his school. Daunte learned how to care for his teeth through Ready, Set, Smile and readily quotes his hygienist's words of wisdom: "Only brush the teeth you want to keep!" Ready, Set, Smile found a local dentist to restore Daunte's front teeth. Daunte's Mom is enthusiastically thankful for all Ready, Set, Smile does for her children at Sojourner Truth Academy. She is highly committed to her children's oral health and each of her children are maintaining decay-free oral health!



Daunte and Sam met at Sojourner Truth Academy where the school hosted lunch and a tour of the school's Ready, Set, Smile mobile clinic. The boys quickly warmed to one another and had fun sharing stories, talking baseball, sports and dental hygiene. Both these youngsters are just incredibly bright, articulate fine teens. It was so much fun to see them interact with a sense of joy and hope for each other. Sam hit homeruns for Daunte and Ready, Set, Smile via live webcast during the event at power-showcase.com. Check the website closer to the event for the exact time and date between December 27–31, 2017.

**A child's future starts with a healthy smile. Daunte and Sam are on their way!**

**Follow the link to donate to Ready, Set, Smile™ and comment "Go Sam!" to cheer him on at the International Power Showcase!**

