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## **BROKERS PLAY FOR THRILLS, KIDS AT EVENT**

About 300 Denver-area commercial real estate brokers will gather Aug. 28 at the Inverness Athletic Fields for games of Ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, soccer, basketball, bocce ball and relay races.

"They bash each other all year round on deals, and now they can take it out on the field," said Terry Claassen, of Mack Cali real estate investment trust.

The 24 teams of brokers will each try to come out on top, but the big winners will be neglected and abused children served by several charities.

This is the eighth consecutive Brokers for Battered Kids fund-raiser.

This year's goal, which includes 50 cents on the dollar in matching funds from the Denver Nuggets Community Fund through the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, is to raise \$325,000. Last year, the brokers raised \$294,000.

"This continues to be the only event that the entire commercial real estate industry rallies around," Claassen said. "Everyone gets involved. If you're not involved, you're an outcast."

The Denver Active 20-30, a nonprofit group which also distributes the funds to charities, administers the event. That way, the brokers only have to worry about raising funds from clients, bankers, lawyers and others.

Steve Leonard, president of the former Pacifica Holding Co., which sold most of its \$500 million portfolio to Mack Cali, started the event in 1991.

"Originally, Steve Leonard was driving the whole thing," said Brad Neiman, of Mile High Properties, who has been involved with the project from the beginning. "Now, it has a board of directors running it. Each year, we set a new goal and we surpass it."

He compared it to the Bolder Boulder 10K on Memorial Day.

"At first (the Bolder Boulder) was Steve Bosley and Frank Shorter. Now, it has taken on a life of its own. Brokers for Battered Kids is the same way. You wake up one day and it is not just an individual effort."