

THE MIRACLE PLANET

By Sheila Luker, President

Miracle League Season ends Thursday, May 30

It seems as if it was yesterday that Zachary Grice was throwing the first pitch to Brad Cobb during Opening Ceremonies on March 23 to begin our 2013 spring baseball season. And thankfully, the storms held off and the teams were able to take the field one by one and play as scheduled, which placed many smiles on some very excited moms, dads, grandparents, friends, coaches, buddies, and especially our athletes.



Just a few more weeks and May 30 will be here and our season will be over. What will our athletes do then? I know we will definitely miss each other. The good thing about this season is that we have not had but one rain out night.

With some of the money that was raised this year, we were able to purchase a blower for the field, in the amount of \$1,660, but mother nature has been so kind to us on game nights that we have not gotten a chance to use it. After last season we wanted to be prepared this year so our athletes would not miss so many games.

Some of the other projects that we had hoped would be completed by this time include the signals at the entrance of the Miracle Complex and the Press Box for our Jumbotron equipment, just to name a few.

We will continue to work on all our projects and hopefully you will see some improvements by our fall season, which is scheduled to begin on September 9, 2013. We know we will have to have a new pad on our field by next spring and will continue to work toward making that happen.

Please have a safe and fun summer and we will see all of you in the fall.



Inside this issue:

2nd Annual Fun Day	2
Go Phillies	2
Tips Fundraiser	2
Glove Drive	3
ML Website	3
Meet The Board	3
Awards & Thanks	4

Chris Brackett #17

Our own Boston Red Sox Outfielder #17 Chris Brackett was an inspiration in giving our first Miracle League Newsletter an official Title "The Miracle Planet."

Chris loves planet earth characters and touched our hearts with the picture he drew for the Poland Family that was presented to them at our Miracle Celebration for Little Ethan and in

Memory of Mr. Charles Poland on February 8 at our Miracle Complex. His drawing has been featured in a special place on our website. Thank you Chris.



2nd Annual Fun Day

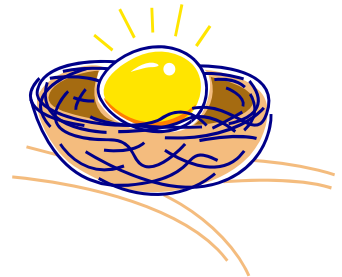


Our 2nd Annual Fun Day was a huge success thanks to the Department of Leisure Services and the Dothan Civitan Club. We appreciate these two groups for coming together and sponsoring this event for our special athletes. From the buggy and train rides to the snow cones and cotton candy, everything was just perfect. Dunking Mr. Heath Carpenter and Mr. Tony Luker in the cold water might have been the best part of the day until the

Easter Egg hunt got under way, then the real fun began. Thanks again for such a special day and a special thanks to all those volunteers who made this day possible.

We want to especially extend our appreciation to Angie, Grace, Barbie and Britni of Leisure Services and Robin, Maggie and Heather of the Dothan Civitan Club for all the work they did in organizing and

hosting this event. We had so much fun and we love our new t-shirts and bags. We look forward to our 3rd Annual Family Fun Day next year and getting that Golden Egg.



Go Phillies



Call Bob

A letter was mailed out this year with the registration form encouraging the players to get involved in a team competition to raise money by getting sponsors for our Jumbotron and Website.

The Phillies brought in the most sponsors and will be

treated to a Pizza Party. They are commended for selling a total of 13 ads for our league this year. We are so proud of them and have featured them in a special place on our website. Thank you players and coaches for your teams effort and enjoy your Party.



Raised \$2,600

Auburn/Alabama Tips Fundraiser



Alabama \$55.00

Auburn \$52.00

Our Miracle League Banquet has been scheduled for June 6 at Westgate Recreation Center at 6:00 P.M. Will we be decorating in red and white or orange and blue? Some hope we will have a tree there that we can roll, so everyone work on filling up the Auburn jar (and that

means you Mike Devine).

It is rumored that a certain customer told a concession worker to “keep the change,” and she put the dime in the Alabama jar and the penny in the Auburn jar. What is up with that bama fans???

Speaking of concession workers, we appreciate everyone that has helped this year in the concession stand. If you would like to help, please see Kellie in the concession stand or sign up by visiting our website. You will need to complete the volunteer registration form online.

Glove Drive for Miracle League

A Glove Drive is currently underway which is being sponsored by the Circle City Special Friends Exchange Club and Dothan Lanes.

Several Miracle League players are in need of gloves and the Circle City Special Friends Exchange Club and Dothan Lanes teamed up together to collect new and/or used gloves for our special miracle league baseball players.

Dicks Sporting Goods was very kind and donated us a gift certificate and the Board purchased 10 gloves that are now in the dugout for our players to use during the games. However, some of the gloves do not fit all of our player's hands.



If you have an extra glove at home that you would like to donate or if you would like to purchase one for one of our players, please drop it off at one of the following locations:

DOTHAN LANES
WESTGATE SOFTBALL COMPLEX
WIREGRASS REC CENTER

Remember, if you drop a glove off at Dothan Lanes, you will receive 5 free game coupons for 5 different visits or for 5 different people.



John & Bobby



Owen

Miracle League Website

Mr. Steve Martin is the Manager of our Website as well as our Photographer. He has done a good job in keeping our photos updated on our website as well as keeping us notified of what is going on in the world of the Dothan Miracle League.

Recently, with the help of our website friends and sponsors, Mark and Becky at MSS (Micro Support Services), we have updated our website so the volunteer form may be completed online and submitted without being mailed. This will also be done for our

coaches and athletes next year and hopefully we will have paypal up and running by then. Please use our website to obtain useful information especially whether games have been cancelled due to inclement weather.

www.dothanmiracleleague.com



Rebecca Miller
& Baylor

Meet Your Board of Directors

Also on the website you will find a link "Meet Your Board." Most of the board members will have an e-mail address so you will be able to contact them if you have a question concerning a certain area involving the Miracle League.

For instance, if you have a group who would like to volunteer to come out and buddy, you would contact the Buddy Coordinator Allen Singley. James McCord is the League Commissioner and handles most anything to do with schedules, rosters, bats, balls, etc.

There is always one board member on duty each night that the games are being played. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please go to the Announcer and they will find the board member. *Please remember to thank them for the excellent work they are doing for our players.*



Angie & Gina

Awards

**Thank You
Lewis-Smith Supply
our League Sponsor
&
our other
Website and
Jumbotron
Sponsors**

**Thank You
Sam's Club and
Mrs. Kim
for providing
Buddies
to us on
April 22 & 25.
They donated
\$2,000
to Miracle League**

We have been having fundraisers this year to try and do a little extra for the players such as the inflatables we had on a Saturday. We have tried to have some other activities but things have really been booked up this spring. Maybe we can plan ahead for next year.

However, at the first of the year, the Board approved to select a Coach of the Year, a Player of the Year, a Buddy of the Year and a Team of the Year for the 2013 Spring Season.

The Coach of the Year will be selected by the Miracle Board. Forms will be given to the coaches to complete to turn in to a Miracle Board representative by a certain date for the Player and Buddy of the Year. One will be selected for the younger and older division.

A team of the year for the older division will be selected and sent to a Biscuits game with their coaches and buddies (must have attended at least three games).

A team of the year for the younger division will be selected and sent to Big Fun with their coaches and buddies (must have attended at least three games).

A committee will be set up of board members who are not parents and do not coach.

We hope this will be something we can do on an annual basis. A different person or team will be chosen each year if funds allow us to continue each year. Thank you for your continued support of our fundraisers.



Special Thanks

We would like to give a "High Five" to a very special volunteer this year. At the beginning of the year, our Board was told that the Umpires Association would not be able to assist us this year and we had no idea what we were going to do. Little did we know that a "Miracle" would come our way and his name is Michael Kelley. Mr. Mike has been to every ball game and has been a tremendous volunteer to our program this season.

He hardly takes a break to eat lunch and takes his job very seriously. He has been seen catching a quick bite with his wife before returning back to his umpire duties. Everyone please get to know Mr. Mike and make him feel welcome to our Miracle Family.

We also want to thank our friends in the Pilot Club for the fans in the dugout. They are wonderful on those Saturdays when the weather

gets really warm. We also appreciate those great Christmas Parties you give us with Santa coming to say "hello."

And last but not least, thank you Iron Pigs for the Boston Butt sale you had for us. Those butts were absolutely delicious and we hope you will plan to sell 400 next year. It was a huge success thanks to our own Damien, of the Yankees, for showing you how to cook them.

