



Welcome to the 2014 Season

Western New York Edition

February 2014

Message from League Commissioner, Jeff Hocutt

A pre-season opportunity to register Players, Buddies, Coaches and volunteers will be held at St. Stephen's Gym (2100 Baseline Road, Grand Island, NY 14072) on Sunday, March 2nd from 1 to 4pm.

Stop by to complete your registration, visit your ML friends and teammates, and participate in some baseball themed games.

Pre-Season Registration
Sunday, March 2, 2014
1:00pm to 4:00pm
St. Stephen's Gym

You may also complete your registration by downloading the form from our website, completing it and returning it by mail to us.

Join us on the 2nd, where you will also have a chance to meet many of the Miracle League Board Members and Committee leaders, who will be available to answer questions you may have.

Registrations for the 2014 Playing season
Due by April 1, 2014.



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Regularly Scheduled League Games

will be played on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings. Game time and further details will soon be available

Buddy Orientation Days

will be scheduled and held on May 4th and throughout the month of May. Register now to get the latest information.

Jersey/Uniform Pick Up Day

Mark your calendars for May 18th for our Uniform and Game Schedule distribution day to be held at the ML Field in Veterans Park, Grand Island.

Opening Day
Sunday, June
1st

2014 UPCOMING EVENTS / Mark your Calendars

Homeruns that Help

by Jody Andreessen

J.D. Andreessen, an 18 year old senior at Lancaster High School and William Lucas, a 6 year old from Tonawanda, who plays baseball in The Miracle League, came together as part of the "Homeruns That Help" community outreach initiative associated with the Power Showcase & All-World/All-American Baseball Classic and Homerun Derby.

In December, J.D. organized the "Homeruns that Help" baseball mini-camp in William's honor in order to raise awareness and funds to benefit The Miracle League. Along with the efforts of family, friends, local and professional coaches, and members of the Lancaster High School's varsity baseball team, the mini-camp provided boys from ages 5 to 15 over 2 hours of instruction including hitting, fielding, and base-running and concluded with some fun baseball contests.

"I am so happy that the mini-camp raised over \$2,100 for The Miracle League; but more importantly, this event allowed the kids in my own local community to meet William and for them and their families to learn what The Miracle League is all about," said J.D. "The Miracle League is providing this great opportunity for kids to play baseball who wouldn't be able to. I love the game and this was a way for me to help other kids play baseball. I'm looking forward to watching William and the other kids play this summer."



After graduating in June, J.D. will attend college and play Division 1 baseball at Campbell University in North Carolina.

Dick & Jenny's Booster Night

Come to dinner on February 25th from 5:00-10:00pm. Dick & Jenny's will donate 20% of your dinner bill to the Miracle League. Reservations recommended (775-5048).



Rod & Gun Fundraiser

A major fundraiser for the Miracle League will be held on May 3rd, 2014 at the Grand Island Rod & Gun Club, 1083 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island. If interested in contributing or volunteering, please contact info@miracleleaguewny.org.

Sabres Game 50/50 Raffle Opportunity

We are looking for 30 volunteers to help sell 50/50 raffle tickets at the Buffalo Sabres game on March 29th at 4:45pm. If interested, please contact RJ Wynne at wynnepas@roadrunner.com. The first 30 respondents will be selected.

Playground Update by Dan Drexelius

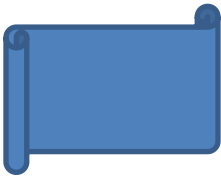


Tentative plans are underway for the Grand Opening of the ML Playground to occur in August.

Finalization of plans hinges on successfully reaching the Matching Grant of \$25,000 by April. The playground committee is also looking for volunteers to help with the preparation of surfaces, construction, and assembly of the equipment upon arrival. If you are willing to help, please contact us at info@miracleleaguewny.org.

ML Supporters Opportunities

ML Sponsor Outfield Fence Banners



A limited number of Outfield Fence Sponsor Banners are available. Banners are 3' x 7' and are available for a \$500 donation (annually) to the Miracle League. Place your order on the website or contact Jeff Dinsmore at big8e5ford@aol.com

Memorial Pavers



Memorial Pavers are available with a \$160 donation to the Miracle League. Pavers are 8" x 8" and can contain up to 4 lines of text (15 characters per line). Graphics on the pavers can be arranged. Place your order on the website or contact Dan Robillard at DanTLC@roadrunner.com.

Playground Matching Grant



Donations to help us reach our goal of fundraising \$25,000 by April 2014, (in order to receive a \$25,000 matching grant challenge) can be made on the website using PayPal, or by sending your generous donation by mail to our address below. Help us to make the Playground a reality in 2014!

2014 Board of Directors



RJ Wynne, President

Certified Public Accountant; Co-Owner, Wynne & Wynne, CPAs, Grand Island, NY



Rich Jureller, Vice President

Director of Community Relations, Buffalo Sabres Buffalo, NY



Gary Carini

Lions Club, Orchard Park, NY



Ron Stanke, Treasurer

Owner, Island Enterprises, Grand Island, NY



Diane Thompson, Secretary

Director, Emerson Industrial Automation, Americas Service Center, Grand Island, NY



April Rockwood

Occupational Therapist, Professor of Occupational Therapy at D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY



Steve Nicholson

First Vice President, Wealth Management at The Nicholson Group, Financial Advisor Merrill Lynch Buffalo, NY



Scott McManigle, Executive Director

**Player Positions are filling up fast – Get your Registration in for the 2014 Playing season!
Due by April 1, 2014.**

Message from League President, RJ Wynne

New Position for 2014: Parent Liaison

In an effort to streamline communication between parents and the ML Board of Directors, we have created a Parents Liaison volunteer position within the Miracle League. The Parents Liaison will be responsible for reporting to the ML BOD each month to ask any questions, express concerns or to obtain any information from the ML BOD as requested by parents of ML players. The ML BOD will respond to all inquiries in a timely manner through the Parents Liaison.

Sarah Gruszka has been appointed by the Board for 2014 to be the Parent Liaison. You can email Sarah at sarah_miracleleaguewny@roadrunner.com with any questions, concerns and suggestions.

We as a Board always welcome your feedback and comments on the ML. The Board plans for the long term viability of the organization. We always want the players experience to be fun and positive. We look forward to Sarah helping in this new position.

THE 2014 Baseball season is almost here! We are looking forward to a fun and successful year for all players in the Miracle League. We have many exciting events to announce, as well as news on the many projects our tireless Committees are working on.

To kick off our Season, we are holding a Pre-Season Registration event in March. This event will coincide with an Open Meeting for all volunteers and interested individuals. At that time, you will have the opportunity to meet our Board of Directors and our new Executive Director.

To all of our generous supporters - Thank you so much for your interest in participating in the Miracle League of Grand Island & WNY. The outpouring of individuals willing to help has been amazing.

The 2014 season will begin with Opening Day on Sunday, June 1st, 2014 at the Miracle League Field.

Let's PLAY BALL!



Miracle League of Grand Island/WNY

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