

## **What player parents and buddy parents are saying about the West Metro Miracle League!**

### **Testimonials from player parents**

“ Being able to play baseball has truly enriched Petey's life -- and, it is clear, that it has enriched the lives of the boys and girls who have acted as "helpers" at the games, as well as the lives of the parents, friends, and bystanders who have watched the games. The games have really displayed our community at its very best. We are grateful to all who have made these games possible.”

“I think you did an amazing job and what a gift this has been. Chase woke me up @ 5:30 a.m. the other day and I opened my eyes to him standing over me in his baseball hat, wearing his medal over his pajamas and he whispered, "Mom, ball FUN!" I guess that says it all!”

“Wow, what a fun time we had today! My son, Ben, decided he wasn't going to play baseball, but when we got him to the field and put his jersey on (over two t-shirts, a heavy sweatshirt, and a jacket), and handed him his hat, he really got into it. Then he met his buddy, who was an awesome kid, and he started spitting in his glove saying "let's beat those Tigers!" It was so cute. All those kids really hung in there even with the cool weather. And those "buddies", what a great bunch of kids.”

“My daughter had a GREAT time this summer playing on the Holmgren Royals with some of her friends!”

“I just wanted to write you to tell you how much being on the “Minnetonka Giants” Miracle League team has meant to my son. He has Down Syndrome, autism, and apraxia. In many ways, he's different from his peers, but, at heart, he's still very much a 12-year old boy, and, just like most 12-year old boys, he is absolutely THRILLED to be on a baseball team!

I had no idea he even really knew what baseball was, but I guess he must have absorbed a lot about it by watching his sister play on Bennett Field over the last couple of years, and watching games on T.V. with his dad. When I told him he was going to play baseball, he got sooo excited, and said “baseball”, almost as clear as a bell. (Because of his apraxia, he doesn't talk much at all, so this was a big deal.) I didn't know what to expect the first day, because he usually doesn't last too long in outdoor activities. But he grabbed the cap, put it on, pulled off his shirt & pulled on his “Minnetonka Giants” shirt, put on his glove, and just waved “by-by” as he went out to the field with his “buddy.” That first day, he hardly had any idea what to do or what way to run, but those marvelous buddies have been so patient & kind, and have taught him so many things, after just 3 games – which way to run after batting, to drop the bat, to catch & throw the ball, even (last game, when he was catcher) to tag people “out.” Those weekly baseball games have become such an important part of his week, now. Every day, he counts down with us how many days until his next baseball game.

You have added a very important dimension to my son's life! Thank you so much for all you've done to make this possible! “

### **Testimonials from buddy parents (those that help the players)**

“I just wanted to share with you how wonderful the Miracle League program is! It was great to see the smiles on the faces of the Miracle League players. Our boys loved it and my son asked if he could work with his buddy again sometime:) You are doing great work. Thank YOU!!”

“I spoke with each of the boys from my team who were buddies this weekend and they all had a great time. What a wonderful experience for everyone. It was so neat to see all the kids smiling and having a good time.”

“My older sister had a disability and they never had anything like this for her years ago. I think what Bennett Family Park is doing is great!”