

Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley News Letter



Articles:

- Events
- Schedule
- Support
- Letter From The President
- Letter From The Executive Director

Highlights:

IronPigs	1
Playground	1
Team Photos	1
Fall Schedule	2,4
Registration Info	4
Donation Info	4

Events

IronPigs

The Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs have invited the Miracle League players to play one inning of Miracle League Baseball before their [August 11th, 2008](#) game.

Miracle League players will have to be at Coca Cola Park by 5:00pm on Monday, August 11th. Each player will be provided with 3 tickets, one for themselves and 2 for family. Additional tickets are available for purchase. If you purchase \$9.00 field level tickets you will be seated with all other Miracle League players and family. The other option is

to purchase \$6.00 general admission tickets, which will seat you separate from the group.

Melissa has surveyed the stadium and the accommodations are 100% accessible to all. In addition, on July 6, 2008, Miracle League players circled the bases after a game with no problem. It was a great time!!!!

The accommodations are for 40 players, so availability is first come, first served. The Iron Pigs will host future games in which Miracle League players can

participate. Anyone who gets shut out of this game will be put on a list to get first choice for the next game, which will take place next season.

If interested, please contact Melissa Borland at 484-221-9814. We have a short amount of time to plan this great event, so please call ASAP.

Photos below by Lee Butz



Playgroup Opening

The Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley is very excited to unveil the Miracle League Playground. This playground is like no other and will be accessible to all.

On [August 9, 2008](#) from 11:30am to 2:00pm, Miracle League will host "Lunch at the Park". Each player will receive one free hotdog and drink while being introduced to the new playground.

Come one - Come all.... This will be a fun day you will not want to miss.

Pittman Photography

On [August 23rd, and 24th 2008](#), (rain date August 30th) Pittman Photography will come to the field to take team pictures and individual pictures for the Miracle League players to purchase.

Pittman Photography has discounted their packages by \$2 to \$5 for the Miracle League. Packages are priced from \$4.50 to \$29.00, so they are priced to meet all budgets. The Pittman Photography information will be available at the field during the playground opening and season II opening weekend.



↑ Luke and Mitchell Indelecato at the IronPigs Game.

Miracle League Players taking bases at the IronPigs game. ↓ July 6, 2008



Photo below by Lee Butz



Season II Schedule

There will be no Miracle League Games this weekend or next. Season II of 2008 will start on August 16. As publicized on the registration forms earlier in the year, Season II is weekends only.

There will be a weekend break on September 6th and 7th

The Season II schedule continues through the last weekend in October, spanning 10 weeks.

Four teams, which are program

affiliated, will not be playing in Season II- the Astros, Rockies, Devil Rays and the Mets. If your child was on any of these teams, would still like to play in Season II, and has not already been contacted, please call Melissa ASAP and you will receive your new team and jersey.

For those of you who received your schedule early, there was a typo- The weekend of October 19th, Phillies vs. Twins will be the game at 3:00pm, not Phillies vs. Giants.

Please check the Miracle League

web site or call 484-221-9814 before each game to check for schedule changes.

Any scheduling questions please contact Melissa. Refer to schedule on page 4.



Global Village Parade Jared Brown and Katie Mericle

Support

The [Global Village](#) was a fantastic event which took place on July 25, 2008.

We had a wonderful time, and it will be great if Global Village can come back again next year. We would like to encourage Global Village to return by letting them know how much we enjoyed having them.

Please email Melissa or send her a letter expressing your feelings about this year's event. Melissa will collect these messages and deliver them to Global Village with a request for the event to happen year after year. Please send your messages to Melissa by Aug. 13, 2008, by mail or email.

Also, Please email or mail your favorite picture, or all your pictures taken at the Global Village event. The pictures will be used to make a picture collage for the field and possibly for the web site.

Thank you so much for your support.

Nominations for executive positions in the [Booster Club](#) will take place in October. Feel free to come to the next Booster Club meeting on August 19th at the Holiday Inn – Rt 100, room 217. and see if you would be interested.

Quilt raffle tickets still Available

Drawing to be held on Oct. 19, 2008

Don't miss the opportunity to have a chance to win this gorgeous quilt! Call or email Jana Brown at (610) 395-9555 or JKB2@aol.com



Thank you to all who have helped sell raffle ticket!

Tickets are \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00

Please contact Jana to get your pack of 20 tickets to sell or purchase for yourself.

100% of the Proceeds go to The Miracle League of the LV

Records:

The Miracle League records are in the process of being updated. If you are aware of any interested party who has not received this newsletter, please have them contact Melissa immediately and one will be sent right away. Also, if you are receiving this as a paper mailing, please contact Melissa with your **email address** if you have one. We want to have this publication produced quarterly, and providing an email address will help keep the production and mail costs down so we can continue to produce the newsletter each quarter.

Letter from the President

Dear Players, Parents and Friends of the Miracle League:

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors for The Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Executive Director, Melissa Borland!

The selection committee had the challenging undertaking of selecting the right person for this position from many well-qualified candidates. We had to find a director who could first and foremost be a person who would capture the hearts of our children, relate to them and help them to continue to see the Miracle League as place where they come for fun, friendship and to let them feel the love that surrounds them. The director would then

have the task of balancing the needs of the parents, earning their trust and respect while maintaining an organized and well run baseball league.

Melissa has proven in these few short weeks that she carries all those qualities and more!

Melissa's extensive background working with children and young adults with a variety of challenges along with her impeccable organizational and communication skills has given her the ability to step in to our organization and to immediately become an effective director.

I am confident her positive attitude and fresh rejuvenating

Energy, along with her new ideas will serve the Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley for many years to come.

We couldn't be more pleased with our selection and from the extremely positive feedback we have received from Players, Parents and Volunteers we know you feel the same way.

Please join me in welcoming Melissa to our fantastic organization!

Sincerely,

Steve Haddad

President



Letter from the Executive Director

Hello Everyone,

I am Melissa Borland, and I started with the Miracle League on June 23, 2008. I am thrilled to be part of this wonderful organization, and very much appreciate how warmly you have all welcomed me in my first few weeks.

I have spent the past 9 years working with kids in need. I derive great personal joy from working with special needs children, and I am proud to continue my life experience with the Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley.

While I was engaged in the interview process for this position, I attended a game prior to accepting, and I was immediately hooked. I realized very quickly that the Miracle

League is about so much more than baseball. I was particularly struck by the realization that it is a place where kids can go and not have to think about their special needs. It's a place where we can all celebrate how special these kids are, and where the kids themselves can feel special in a very positive and enriching way.

The last 6 weeks with the Miracle League have been fantastic for me. I have received overwhelming support from so many people. The Miracle League is such a terrific organization and I am truly blessed to be a part of something this great.

There is a photo gallery of many great moments which is already permanently a part of my memory- thanks to all of the

volunteers, players, parents, funders and great events that took place this past season.

I have very much enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you, yet I realize I still have so many of you to meet and know much better. I'll work very hard to accomplish that during Season II and beyond.

I am very open to feedback so if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am eager to do all that is possible to help the Miracle League achieve its full potential, and I need your input to ensure I'm on the right track.

I am also happy to let you know that I will be getting married September 6, 2008. Please take note that my name will change to Melissa Kocsis.

Looking Forward to Season II.

Melissa Borland



Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley

Melissa Borland
Executive Director

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.MiracleLeagueLV.org

The Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley 2008 Season II Schedule

SATURDAY 1:30PM	SATURDAY 3:00PM	SATURDAY 4:30PM	SUNDAY 1:30PM	SUNDAY 3:00PM	SUNDAY 4:30PM
16-Aug Nationals Vs Giants	16-Aug Angel's Vs Marlins	16-Aug Cardinals Vs Tigers	17-Aug Phillies Vs Blue Jays	17-Aug Orioles Vs Twins	17-Aug Yankees Vs Red Sox
23-Aug Nationals Vs Phillies	23-Aug Tigers Vs Orioles	23-Aug Giants Vs Cardinals	24-Aug Marlins Vs Yankees	24-Aug Red Sox Vs Twins	24-Aug Angel's Vs Blue Jays
30-Aug Red Sox Vs Blue Jays	30-Aug Nationals Vs Twins	30-Aug Orioles Vs Phillies	3-Aug Marlins Vs Cardinals	31-Aug Yankees Vs Angles	31-Aug Tigers Vs Giants
13-Sep Tigers Vs Yankees	13-Sep Angel's Vs Nationals	13-Sep Marlins Vs Twins	14-Sep Red Sox Vs Giants	14-Sep Orioles Vs Blue Jays	14-Sep Cardinals Vs Phillies
20-Sep Tigers Vs Giants	20-Sep Twins Vs Angel's	20-Sep Phillies Vs Yankees	21-Sep Cardinals Vs Blue Jays	21-Sep Red Sox Vs Orioles	21-Sep Nationals vs Marlins
27-Sep Twins Vs Giants	27-Sep Tigers Vs Blue Jays	27-Sep Phillies Vs Red Sox	28-Sep Nationals Vs Orioles	28-Sep Marlins Vs Yankees	28-Sep Angel's Vs Cardinals
4-Oct Cardinals Vs Red Sox	4-Oct Phillies Vs Twins	4-Oct Blue Jays Vs Marlins	5-Oct Yankees Vs Angel's	5-Oct Nationals Vs Tigers	5-Oct Giants Vs Orioles
11-Oct Marlins Vs Red Sox	11-Oct Yankees Vs Blue Jays	11-Oct Angel's Vs Orioles	12-Oct Cardinals Vs Twins	12-Oct Tigers Vs Phillies	12-Oct Nationals Vs Giants
18-Oct Orioles Vs Yankees	18-Oct Marlins Vs Giants	18-Oct Cardinals Vs Nationals	19-Oct Blue Jays Vs Angel's	19-Oct Phillies Vs Twins	19-Oct Tigers Vs Red Sox
25-Oct Red Sox Vs Angles	25-Oct Cardinals Vs Orioles	25-Oct Blue Jays Vs Giants	26-Oct Nationals Vs Yankees	26-Oct Phillies Vs Marlins	26-Oct Tigers Vs Twins

What is the Miracle League and How Can You Get Involved?

The Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley is a charitable organization that provides children and young adults with special needs the opportunity to play Miracle League baseball. Players are part of a team and play on their very own entirely accessible field. All special needs players are encouraged to participate regardless of limitation and/or severity. At the Miracle League, all players hit every inning, nobody is called out, and everybody scores. The Miracle League needs 300 volunteers a week to run successfully. **If you are interested in Volunteering, Making a Contribution, or Registering a Player, Contact Melissa Borland.**