

May 05, 2014

News Release

For Immediate Release

Springfield Cardinals visit Miracle League Field tonight

The Springfield Cardinals will visit the Betty and Bobby Allison Miracle League Field during a youth ball game tonight, Monday, May 5, at Dan Kinney Park, 2701 S. Blackman Rd., Springfield.

Fifteen players and representatives of the Springfield Cardinals team plan to attend, starting with a 5:30 p.m. autograph session. Some Springfield Cardinals will also serve as guest buddies with Miracle League players at the 6 p.m. game. Games last about 50 minutes and at the end of each game, all players are invited to the field to sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." A second youth game begins at 7 p.m.

Tonight is the second night for the seven-week spring Miracle League youth season, following two Monday rainouts. Adult Miracle League games take place at 6 and 7 p.m. on Thursdays.

More than 135 children and adults with disabilities have signed for the spring season at the Miracle League Ball Field in Springfield's Dan Kinney Park. Spring registration has more than doubled since the ballpark's 2012 inaugural season.

While many new volunteer buddies have signed up for the spring season, the Miracle League is still accepting applications for on-field buddies to help players hit, catch, run bases and enjoy playing ball.

Miracle League Field opened in October 2011 and is the first certified field of its kind in Missouri. The 1/3-size field was built especially for players with physical or developmental disabilities. It features a barrier-free cushioned synthetic surface with built-in bases and extra-wide dugouts. All of Dan Kinney Park is ramp-accessible, including Miracle League Field and the adjacent universal playground.

The Miracle League follows the National Miracle League Association standards of non-competitive play, including:

- Every player bats once an inning.
- All players are safe on the bases.
- Every player scores a run before the inning is over.
- Every team and every player wins every game.
- On-field buddies support players.

The field was built through generous support of numerous donors, including the Betty and Bobby Allison Family, Rotary Club of Springfield-North, Walmart, Ozarks Coca-Cola, Mercy,

Jack and Fran Hood, Paul Black, James and Jill Lohmeyer, MSU Bears First Pitch, Wayne and Betty Bessinger, Lost Hill Bluegrass Band, Drury University Baseball, Springfield Cardinals, the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and others.

For more information about the Springfield Cardinals, visit www.springfieldcardinals.com or call Matt Gifford, General Manager, at 417-863-0395. For more information about the Springfield-Greene County Park Board's Miracle League, visit parkboard.org/miracle_field; or call Cyrus Taylor, Accessible Recreation Supervisor, at 417-837-5808.

For media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.