

April 14, 2014

News Release

For Immediate Release

Tonight's Miracle League opening night postponed

Tonight's opening night for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board's Miracle League spring season has been postponed, due to weather conditions.

More than 125 children and adults with disabilities have signed up for the spring season at the Miracle League Ball Field in Springfield's Dan Kinney Park.

Children's games are on Monday nights, 6 and 7 p.m., while adults play Thursdays, 6 and 7 p.m. Adult league opening night is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, while the kids' league will now open Monday, April 21.

While many new volunteer on-field buddies have signed up for the spring season, the Miracle League is still accepting applications. The Miracle League pairs each player with a volunteer buddies to help players hit, catch, run bases and enjoy the seven-week ball league.

Miracle League Supervisor Cyrus Taylor says the benefits of this volunteer program go far beyond the one-hour-per-week time commitment.

"Buddies can expect to have a heck of a good time and to make a serious impact on someone's life," said Taylor. "They may think it's not a big deal to go play a little baseball, but it's a big deal for our players. Playing in the Miracle League improves their confidence, it helps their social interactions and verbal skills, and it's a real win for everyone."

Buddies are needed for seven one-hour games, Monday and/or Thursday evenings, April 17 through June 2. Single-game opportunities are available, but Taylor prefers a three-game commitment – if not the whole season. "Being a buddy is a bonding experience," he said.

Buddies must be age 12 or older, enthusiastic, friendly, able to assist players on the field and ready to have a good time.

For more information and volunteer registration forms, visit parkboard.org/miracle_field. Or contact Miracle League Supervisor Cyrus Taylor at 417-837-5808 or e-mail the Park Board's Accessible Recreation program at AR@springfieldmo.gov.

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