



There is something about playing a baseball game that lights up a kid's eyes. But for kids facing physical and mental disabilities, that opportunity can often be difficult to achieve. Traditional baseball fields weren't designed with wheelchairs and walkers in mind.

**The Miracle League provides opportunities for kids, regardless of their abilities, to compete and experience the joy and benefits that come from playing sports. We're united by a purpose: to build a field where dreams come to life.**

### **Background**

The Miracle League is a national organization that provides opportunities for kids—both boys and girls—to play baseball, regardless of their abilities. A Miracle League Field is a custom-designed field with a cushioned, rubberized surface to help prevent injuries, wheelchair accessible dugouts, and a completely flat surface to eliminate any barriers to wheelchair users or visually impaired players. The Miracle League lets kids with disabilities enjoy themselves and experience the camaraderie of playing baseball in a field all their own.

The Miracle League is a successful organization that has been around for 20 years. The first Miracle League began in 1998 in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. The first-of-its-kind Miracle League Field broke ground on December 31, 1999, and the Miracle League complex was completed in April 2000. Presently there are over 300 Miracle League organizations across the country, including in Puerto Rico, Canada and Australia. The Miracle League serves over 250,000 kids with disabilities.

### **The Need**

The Southwest Michigan Miracle League (SMML) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are building the Southwest Michigan Miracle League Field in Schoolcraft, Michigan, to serve the southwest Michigan area and the 4,600 kids in Kalamazoo County who have disabilities and could benefit from a Miracle League. Because the Miracle League Field will be located on US-131, it has good visibility and easy access to people throughout southwest Michigan.

**We are looking for donors and sponsors to build the Miracle League.** We need to raise \$1.1 million to build the custom-designed Miracle League Field. We would like to break ground on the field and begin hosting Miracle League games in 2020.

We are also seeking players, buddies to assist the players, and volunteers to run the Miracle League. The Miracle League is open to kids aged 5-19 whose physical or mental abilities are better served by the specialized playing field and rules of play that the Miracle League provides. A buddy assists each Miracle League player and are kids who play baseball and softball, are from church youth groups, boy and girl scouts, and school organizations. Buddies help players onto the field and during the game, cheer them on, and make sure their time is enjoyable and safe, while giving the players' parents a break to enjoy the game.

### **Contact**

You can get more information about the Southwest Michigan Miracle League on Facebook or visit our web site at [www.swmimiracle.org](http://www.swmimiracle.org) to learn more. **Please contact us at [info@swmimiracle.org](mailto:info@swmimiracle.org) to become a donor or sponsor.**