



Since 2006, Friends of Baseball has **helped over seventy baseball and softball teams in leagues serving over 36,000 children in 15 Northwest Oregon counties secure more than \$514,000 in goods, services, support, and funding.** In these communities, after-school activities are rare, and organized athletics even more so. At a time when our society is ever more isolated and sedentary, when childhood obesity and diabetes are on the rise, affordable access to team sports is needed more than ever. In a perfect world, all children would be able to participate in physical activity programs. Unfortunately, this just isn't true. For many families, even a modest fee is too big a financial burden.

Study after study show us, however, that well-structured, sustainable team programs play an integral role in shaping the whole child. They can help **kids learn teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking while strengthening a child's self-esteem.**

**Friends of Baseball strives to offer Northwest Oregon's underserved children equal access** to the enhanced opportunities for social interaction, academic success, and physical and emotional well-being gained through participation in youth baseball and softball team programs. We work to ensure that all children, regardless of family finances, are able to "play ball."

We reach this goal through our Promising Players Program. Promising Players is a vast network of resources for at-risk after-school baseball and softball programs, located primarily in rural and inner-city communities. We provide both grant money from Friends of Baseball, and also assistance in securing outside funding sources as well as providing networking opportunities. Teams can contact us to request equipment, uniforms, help with field maintenance, or **whatever they need to keep the opportunity for kids in place.** We also work to sustain a child's enthusiasm in the sport by working with coaches and kids in training clinics. This helps to deepen their understanding and skill level, allowing for an intensified commitment to the game and the team.

**In the future, we intend to do even more.** We plan to start a scholarship program to ensure that lack of financial resources never stops a child from getting to play. Additionally, we hope to work with our network of community supporters and volunteers to build new ball fields in underserved communities.

Together we can keep the future full of hope, opportunity, and fun for the children of Oregon. **Join our team to learn how you can help make a difference in the life of a child.**

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