



Topic: Where Does Your Money Go?

CLLL is a not for profit organization focused on enriching our children and bringing the community together. Likewise, our local Little League program relies on the thousands of dollars within our operating budget to ensure we are providing the best resources and experience to all of its members. From paying charter fees with Little League International (per team,) and purchasing the uniforms and playing equipment, to the field and facility maintenance, it takes significant funding to play ball each year. As with any organization, this also creates a fiscal responsibility to each of the members of our Board of Directors to ensure the funds are properly accounted for, efficiently used, and transparently communicated to the members of the league. In addition to player registration fees, the league's annual operating budget is supplemented throughout the year by organized fundraisers, private and commercial donations, and financial support provided through affiliated travel team agreements.

Each spring the league incurs routine costs close to \$45,000 in preparation for the season and continues to have costs for upkeep and maintenance of Good Times Park. On-field costs include playing equipment (hats and uniforms, bats, batting helmets, catcher's gear, and baseballs) and league-owned equipment and materials (tractors and gasoline), field dry, batting cages, batting tees, pitching machines, baseline paint/chalk, field drags, rakes and detachable bases.) CLLL contracts with several agencies to assist with the upkeep of Good Times Park (lawn services, field lighting, water and septic, portable toilets, trash collection and bathroom cleaners...lest we forget bathroom toilet paper, paper towels, soap and hand sanitizer). The cost of insurance on the players and facilities is also an annual cost of the league, as well as the cost to conduct background checks on all registered volunteers.

Thankfully, the Town of Leesburg and Loudoun County provide additional practice and playing areas for CLLL use. The league has agreements with both, yet the arrangements come with a per player fee for use of these facilities (including the portable toilets at fields.) CLLL pays these fees each season.

CLLL relies heavily on our youth umpire program throughout the entire season. Our program has grown over the years as many former Little Leaguers have their first paying jobs as an umpire for CLLL. This year we contracted with a new company to help streamline the scheduling and paying of our youth umpires. This new way to organize our league has been invaluable to our Umpire in Chief.

In order to grow our league, CLLL invests in marketing and advertising initiatives designed to increase participation and better fund the league. In line with this, CLLL uses a website to house league operations (registration, communication, and organization) that is paid annually to our website vendor.

In 2012 CLLL started an annual scholarship program intended to recognize our former little leaguers that are now high school seniors. The scholarship is an essay contest with a \$500 scholarship awarded to seniors from each of the high schools in our boundaries and paid directly to the college that they will be attending.

Lastly, it is the policy of Little League International that no player should be turned away from participation if they are unable to pay. Therefore, CLLL grants registration fee scholarships to a number of players each season.

Every child should have the opportunity to have a meaningful, fun, Little League experience. CLLL is hopeful that our financial operations are transparent and that resources are going toward that effort which helps to ensure all our families have an enjoyable Little League season. There is one important return on investment parents should pay attention to... a smile on a child's face after practices and games because of a well run league.

**A more comprehensive and exact budget and financial status is shared yearly with the entire CLLL community at our annual meeting held each October. All members of our league are invited to attend to learn more about CLLL and listen to this report.

NEXT TOPIC: Volunteerism