

# The McLean Little League 45th Anniversary Capital Campaign:

## Improvements Today; Memories for Generations

*An ambitious community project that can  
become a reality with your generous help.*



## McLean Little League Launches 45th Anniversary Capital Campaign—

McLean Little League announced a 45th Anniversary Capital Campaign as it prepares for its April 1 season opener and parade through downtown McLean. The \$500,000 campaign will fund several improvements required or desired as a result of the completion of the Fairfax County permit process last year. The league, which was founded in 1955, owns and operates a 7-acre complex on Westmoreland Street that includes four baseball and softball diamonds, a snack bar with restrooms and storage building, three batting cages, and off-street parking for 140 vehicles. Two of the four diamonds have lights for evening play.

The improvements to be funded are for health, safety, and environmental considerations. Additionally, the league hopes to improve the quality of the playing fields both at the complex and at other field sites in the McLean area, and ultimately develop a permanent training facility for baseball and softball. The fundraising and project implementation are scheduled to take place over the next three years. The key objectives are to:

- *Improve safety conditions for players and fans*
- *Improve playing conditions*
- *Improve traffic and parking conditions*
- *Meet environmental requirements*
- *Improve field quality in the community*
- *Identify a more permanent training facility*

The projects to be implemented include:

- *Repaving of parking lot; delineation of spaces; and addition of safety lighting in the parking lot*
- *Increased environmental screen plantings and stream bank restoration along Pimmit Run and additional site trees and landscaping*
- *Addition and renovation of the snack bar for additional storage, an administrative office, and health compliance*
- *Extension of fields to 200' regulation distance and improved lighting*
- *Location of permanent training facilities*

## Remarks from the McLean Little League Capital Campaign Dedication Ceremony—

The Capital Campaign is already off to a roaring start, thanks to friends of the league from the Arthur Andersen LLP offices, located at Tyson's Corner, who have already donated \$100,000 in memory of Wayne McCune, an Arthur Andersen partner and McLean Little League coach, who passed away suddenly in 1999. The money raised by the Andersen partners, from employees and other friends in the community, will be used towards the renovation of the snack bar building, which is expected to begin within the next eight weeks.

"McLean Little League has been a community institution for 45 years. It is one of the oldest and largest organizations in our community that brings together business, families, schools, and children," said League President Kevin Fay. The league currently serves nearly 1,100 hundred players, both boys and girls, ranging in age from 5-12 in the baseball program, and 5-15 in the softball program. Currently, the league fields more than 90 teams, including 30 baseball, 16 softball, and 50 Tee-ball and transition teams. Each team has a corporate sponsor, most of them from the Mclean business community. The league has been very successful in recent years, winning five Virginia State Softball Championships since 1995, and winning the District 4 Minor League tournament in 1997, 1998, and 1999.

Even more important than winning tournament games, however, are the cherished memories for young and old, of spending a spring afternoon at the fields with friends, watching the games and a treat from the snack bar. Many of the coaches, in both baseball and softball, are former McLean Little League players.

The Capital Campaign, which has already achieved 33% of its goal, includes many named gift opportunities and is being chaired by McLean Little League Board members Mike Fruin (703) 893-5119 and Danny Walsh (703) 356-8232. Contact Mike or Danny for more information on how you can participate in the league and its capital campaign.



# Named and Individual Gift Opportunities—

## Named Gift Opportunities—

- **Snack Bar/Administrative Building:** \$100,000 Arthur Andersen LLP Partners and Friends of Wayne McCune
- **Clock Tower:** \$25,000
- **Two Public Address Systems:** \$2,500
- **Board Meeting Room:** \$10,000
- **Environmental Plantings:** \$10,000
- **Eight Dugouts:** \$80,000
- **Administrative Office:** \$5,000
- **Two Press Boxes:** \$5,000
- **Three Batting Cages:** \$5,000
- **Four Sprinkler Systems:** \$2,500
- **Two Outdoor Lighting Systems:** \$50,000
- **Bridge (Parking Lot to T-Ball Field):** \$3,000
- **Bleachers:** \$1,500
- **Six Trees (in Parking Lot):** \$1,000
- **Entrance Sign:** \$25,000
- **Pillars to Entrance:** \$15,000
- **Six Flag Poles:** \$2,500
- **Six Picnic Tables:** \$1,000

## Individual Gift Opportunities—

Hall of Fame:	\$10,000 or More
Golden Glove:	\$4,500-\$9,999
All-Star:	\$2,500-\$4,499
Home Run:	\$1,000-\$2,499
Diamond:	\$500-\$999

*All named and individual gifts will be listed in the yearbook for the next five years.*

*All named gifts will be reported in our newsletter.*

*All named gifts will be recognized on our website.*

### Front Cover:

*Reminiscent of the Orioles Camden Yards Stadium, this architect's sketch of the front elevation for the planned McLean Little League Snack Bar and Administration Building also incorporates a meeting room, a press box, and a clock tower.*

### Below:

*Architect's sketch of the side elevation of the planned McLean Little League Snack Bar and Administration Building which also includes equipment storage, groundskeeper/maintenance storage, and rest rooms.*



# Business Goes to Bat for McLean Little League—

by Bara Milon

(Reprinted from *The Connection*, March 22-28, 2000)

## Arthur Andersen Contributes \$100,000 to the McLean Little League Capital Campaign—

The McLean Little League (MLL) kicked-off its 45th Anniversary Capital Campaign on March 16 at its fields on Westmoreland Street with the announcement of a \$100,000 contribution from Arthur Andersen LLP partners and friends.

The gift, collected in memory of Wayne McCune, the little league parent and coach who died last March. McCune's son Collin, a student at Franklin Sherman Elementary School, will be playing for MLL again this season on the team of Drs. Price & Luposello with coach Matt Warner. Collin's mother, Corby McCune, and sister Tessa are also supporters of the league.

## Business Support—

Roger West of Arthur Andersen presented the check to MLL President Kevin Fay. "We're very proud to be associated with McLean Little League," West said, "this is a way for us all to share Wayne's passion and to try to make some good come out of the great tragedy of his loss."

Fay opened the ceremony by thanking the numerous businesses that sponsor MLL teams, activities, and scholarships. "We're proud to have their names on our shirts," Fay said. "The league is so much a part of the whole community, and we couldn't do all we do without the support of the business community here."

Dranesville District Supervisor Stuart Mendelsohn (R) agreed. "The partnership between business and the community is one of the factors that makes McLean such a great place," Mendelsohn said, "and little league baseball, this all-American sport, is a big part of that."

Fay, Mendelsohn, and West, reminisced about their own childhood experiences at bat, with Mendelsohn admitting to often being the last guy to get picked for a team. "None of this would be happening without Stu's hard work," Fay said, thanking the supervisor for his support throughout the permit process which has paved the way for MLL's renovation plan.



*Left:  
June 9, 1956—  
Opening day ceremonies for McLean  
Little League's first game featuring  
Washington Senators baseball great  
Harmon Killebrew.*

*Left:  
The 1956 Wayne Insulation team:  
Mike Adams, Ronnie Brooks,  
Terry Grefe, Ronnie Kennedy, David  
Knapp, Terry Lea, Charles Pratt,  
John Seymour, Alan Shade, William  
Stalcup, Albert Steece, Joe Vincent,  
Fred Wilkens, Marvin Wittman,  
Manager Jerry Roop, Coaches  
Maynard Knapp and Keith Adams.  
Wayne and Richart Whitlow (Wayne  
Insulation) have been continuous  
sponsors since the league's beginning.*



# Baseball's Lessons for Life—

by Fred Bowen

(Reprinted with permission of the Washington Post)

Each spring, when I start “fielding” my baseball team of fourth and fifth graders, I run into the same big problem. A lot of the kids are already committed to playing soccer. Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against soccer. I played soccer in high school and I have coached kids' soccer teams. I think soccer is a wonderful sport...in the fall. Spring is for baseball. And baseball is good for kids.

The lessons baseball teaches are more important than ever. Today's kids get stroked, praised, and hugged just for “being special.” We now have something called “participation awards” in schools and they are given freely—no questions asked about effort or dedication. Kids can simply shuffle along with the group. But not on the baseball diamond.

Baseball is a game about individuals. Unlike youth soccer, where kids can get safely lost in the blur of the group, baseball is a game that spotlights, for better or worse, individual kids. When a kid is up at bat, all eyes are on her or him. When a fly ball sails to the outfield, one kid braces for the catch. There's no dozing off and allowing other players to take over. Every kid has to stay alert and do his or her part.

That's what I love about baseball. It's a game about personal responsibility and performance. When a child gets a solid hit or catches a fly ball, there is a sense of true accomplishment, not to mention sheer exhilaration. I remember a couple of years ago when one of my players hit a home run. He ran around the bases as if he were going to take flight. He wasn't one of my better players, but he had worked hard and had earned that moment. And he knew it.

Of course, I know that there is a flip side to success. A kid may strike out with the bases loaded, or let in the winning run. And it isn't fun. Failure rarely is. But I think our schools and parents try too hard to protect our kids from it. Baseball teaches kids to put failure in perspective—to see it as the price of trying to do something well. Baseball also teaches them that failure isn't always to be trusted: Sometimes people simply have “bad days” and the only response is to pick themselves up and dust themselves off.

Failure and dealing with it are as much a part of baseball as the bat and ball. As Ted Williams said, “Baseball's the only field of endeavor where a man can succeed three times out of 10 and be considered a good performer.”

*Left:*

*An aerial view of Pimmit Run at Westmoreland in 1985.*

*Over the years the Tee-Ball field was removed to accommodate the badly needed expansion of the parking lot.*

*New lights were added in 1994.*

*And Field #3, lower right, was expanded to 200 feet in 1990.*

*Three new electronic scoreboards were installed in 1996.*



I always remind my players that Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times. I think they like to hear it. In fact, years ago, when one of my kids struck out, he just took his place back on the bench and said, “I'm like that guy Bob Ruth, right, Coach?” Close enough. The important thing is that he knew he didn't have to hang his head when he struck out and that he would get another turn at bat.

Another great thing about baseball is that star players can't dominate. A home-run slugger only gets up to bat when it's his or her turn. A hotshot first baseman can't run after a ball headed for center field. Average kids get their moment in the sun (again, for better or worse).

Now I know many parents say their kids don't like baseball because it is too slow and boring. But I think it's a mistake to serve our kids a steady diet of constant thrills and slam-bam excitement. In this world of razzle-dazzle computer games and nonstop action videos, I'm glad there's baseball. It teaches patience. It forces kids to slow down and truly concentrate. They can't let their eyes glaze over—even in the outfield; a lazy-looking game can fire up in an instant and they've got to be ready. That kind of concentration is not easy. The situation doesn't demand it. It comes from within.

I hate to think that our springtime love affair with baseball is waning and that soccer is stealing our children's hearts. They can play soccer in the fall; I would even encourage them to. Really. But come spring, I want to see them on the baseball diamond. Baseball has a lot to teach our kids and they've got a lot to learn. And did I mention that baseball is a lot of fun?

*(Fred Bowen is the author of the “All Star Sport Story Series,” a sports fiction series for children.)*

*Illustration by Loel Barr for the Washington Post.*

To make a contribution or obtain additional information  
about the McLean Little League 45th Anniversary Capital Campaign,  
please contact:

Mike Fruin (703) 893-5119

Danny Walsh (703) 356-8232

“I won’t be happy until we have every boy in America between the  
ages of six and sixteen wearing a glove and swinging a bat.”

*Babe Ruth*

*New York Yankees*

“The good players feel the kind of love for the game that they had  
when they were Little Leaguers.”

*Tom Seaver*

*New York Mets*

“They give you a round bat and they throw you a round ball.  
And they tell you to hit it square.”

*Willie Stargell*

*Pittsburgh Pirates*

“If you want to be a good hitter, remember this:  
The best hitters that ever lived were the guys that practiced the most.”

*Ted Williams*

*Boston Red Sox*

“I became a good pitcher when I stopped trying to make them miss  
the ball and started trying to make them hit it.”

*Sandy Koufax*

*Los Angeles Dodgers*

“When I was a small boy in Kansas, a friend of mine and I went fishing.  
I told him I wanted to be a real major league baseball player, a genuine  
professional like Honus Wagner. My friend said that he’d like to be  
President of the United States. Neither of us got our wish.”

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

*34th President of the United States*

“The best thing about Little League baseball is that it gives the parents  
something to do on the weekends and keeps them off the streets.”

*Anonymous Little Leaguer*

“The wind always seems to blow against catchers when they are running.”

*Joe Garagiola*

*Pittsburgh Pirates*

“If a horse can’t eat it, I don’t want to play on it.”

*Dick Allen*

*Chicago White Sox*

“You spend a good piece of your life gripping a baseball and in the end  
it turns out that it was the other way around all the time.”

*Jim Bouton*

*Ball Four*

“Losing streaks are funny. If you lose at the beginning, you got off  
to a bad start. If you lose in the middle of the season, you’re in a slump.  
If you lose at the end, you’re choking.”

*Gene Mauch*

*Manager, Philadelphia Phillies*

“Ninety percent of the game is half mental.”

*Jim Whitford*

*Milwaukee Brewers*

“Go up and hit what you see.  
And if you don’t see anything, come on back.”

*Bucky Harris*

*On how to hit against Bob Feller*

“When asked what he considered his greatest asset as a pitcher,  
he responded, “Great outfielders!”

*Vernon “Lefty” Gomez*

*New York Yankees*

*Right:*

*The 1997 Virginia State Champion  
McLean Little League Senior Girls  
All-Star Team.*

