

# BASEBALL MIRACLES



*Making a  
difference  
through charity  
and kindness*

FEBRUARY 2018  
ISSUE #1  
PRINT NEWSLETTER

Newsletter & Illustrations:  
Ashley D. Poulin

[baseballmiracles.org](http://baseballmiracles.org)

## FOUNDER'S CORNER

### *The Road Less Traveled*

BM's goal from the onset 5 years ago which still remains the same today, is to search and seek out those areas untapped by the full presence of the game of baseball. 2017 accomplished just that in New Orleans when we served in a Juvenile Detention Center for boys 14-17 years old who never played the game due their environmental disadvantages. Although the athleticism was amazing the skill settings were very crude.

This past year we also ventured into Argentina where the children have been exposed to the game but are economically disadvantaged. Their needs included the proper and safe equipment to fine tune their abilities to the max, along with the quality instruction provided by our professional BM staff. We also landed for the first time at the MLB/MILB Winter Meetings. There we were present with 'bells' on, as many passed our booth asking questions thus ever increasing our awareness. The contacts were enormous!

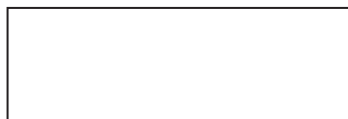
It's a community endeavor, a team effort that takes us down these roads less traveled. It's a unity that binds us toward the next mission as we look forward to 2018. Baseball Miracles is going into 2018 with some 'new looks' within our 'voluntary equation' that makes our brand attractive to younger individuals who are looking to assist others. Our College Internship program and our Youth Ambassador levels are just some of the ways that we will bring into the fold such talent. That ability will un leash only positive energies into our next phase.

Our opening round of trips in 2018 start with the City of Newburgh, NY and by years end the Philippines. By all our standards the Philippines is considered 'taking a road less traveled'. This part of the world will challenge us to live by our motto 'of serving God and our neighbor', while teaching the game of baseball for the first timers.

In conclusion, for those who know of the work that our BM team has poured forth in the past our record speaks for itself. We continue to thank you all for your support and we encourage you all to keep us in your daily prayers. The power of your prayer gets us to those roads less traveled.

With cheerful hearts and minds,

**John Tumminia**  
*Founder, Baseball Miracles*



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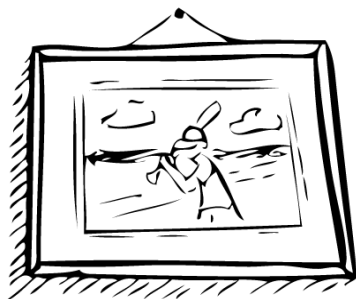
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# ON THE HORIZON

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## FEBRUARY 23 & 24

Our very first ART EXPO '18 begins at the **Marlboro Free Library** (1251 Rt 9W Marlboro, NY), in the Hudson Valley. The works of our wonderful BM photographers will be displayed.

## MARCH 11, 2018

BM will be holding a **CLINIC** in **Brewster, NY**.

## AUGUST 4, 2018

BM will be holding a **CLINIC** in **Yankee Stadium**.

## COMING SOON

Baseball Miracles Silent Auction

*Please check our facebook page for more details on all upcoming events!*

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## INTERVIEW

*with Denis Salamone*

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### **Q. How did you first become involved with Baseball Miracles?**

A. After more than 40 years, I reconnected with John Tumminia through a mutual friend. My philanthropic focus is the education of underprivileged children. When I learned about BM and the great work you do with children, I was hooked. Baseball teaches children strategy, responsibility, sportsmanship, teamwork, integrity...qualities that build character. BM aligns very well with my focus of educating children. And I'm passionate about the game.

### **Q. Can you describe your current role with our organization?**

A. My wife, Joanne, and I and our Family Foundation are donors. Recently, John asked me to join John Caroselli, Tom Archer and the great Clint Hurdle as an advisor. I'm learning about the organization and happy to engage my business skills and experience with charitable organizations.

### **Q. Tell me about your relationship with John.**

A. John and I grew up in Borough Park, Brooklyn, NY a few streets from his current boss, Jerry Reinsdorf. We hung out at the local schoolyard looking for any type of sports game to play. We played stickball, softball, wiffleball, basketball and football. We had different interests and styles as kids but shared a passion for baseball. We both ended up at St. Francis College. John was a star baseball player for four years. I had to quit in my sophomore year and go to work to pay for college. We went in different directions after college and reconnected recently.

### **Q. Is there a particular story from your relationship with John that resonates with you?**

A. What resonates most with me about our relationship is that we were very different personalities as children and now share very similar values as adults in terms of dedication to family and service to others...and, of course, we both love baseball.

### **Q. What was one of your biggest accomplishments and challenges in your professional career?**

A. I had two different careers in business. I was a partner in the accounting and consulting firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for 26 years and then moved into Banking as the President and COO and then Chairman and CEO of Hudson City Bancorp. A notable accomplishment at Hudson City Bancorp was taking our bank public in 2005. The equity offering was the 7th largest ever at the time and larger than Google's initial public offering. The biggest challenge in my career was dealing with the aftermath of the financial crisis as both the economy and the banking system was in turmoil. The greatest satisfaction I received throughout my career at both PwC and Hudson City was helping younger professionals become successful in their careers.

### **Q. Which personal or professional endeavors are you still looking to pursue following your executive career?**

A. I retired in 2015 upon the sale of our bank to M&T Bank Corp headquartered in Buffalo, NY. I remain on M&T's Board of Directors as well as five other boards of charitable organizations including the college John and I attended. On a professional level, I will remain active in several charitable organizations helping them navigate the future, drawing on my knowledge and experience in business for 40 plus years. On a personal level, I am still working on freeing up more time to spend on fun activities with our family and friends.

### **Q. What are some of your goals for Baseball Miracles?**

A. I am amazed at how much Baseball Miracles accomplishes with a 100% volunteer workforce. I would like to see its impact on children in the communities it serves to continue to grow as well as enlarging the circle of donors and businesses related to the sport of baseball.

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## CHALLENGE YOURSELF

*A Note From Our Missions Coordinator*

2017 was a year of growth for me personally; God taught me a lot through my experiences and interactions with others. I am fortunate to now be working for a great ministry in Chattanooga, TN called SCORE International. It stands for Sharing Christ Our Redeemer Enterprises; we aim to share the hope of Christ through fully customizable mission trips all over the world. I had the pleasure of attending SCORE's annual November Baseball Outreach trip in the Dominican Republic. It never ceases to amaze me how God uses ordinary people, playing an ordinary game, to accomplish extraordinary things. Through SCORE and Baseball Miracles, God has shown me just how much he cares for his people and how it truly takes a team to accomplish a mission. I am thankful for the Baseball Miracles team and all of the talent, passion, and selflessness that is displayed on each trip.

Both of these organizations are more than just a job or volunteer opportunity; they encourage something bigger and challenge me to be the best version of myself. I think everyone should be involved with something that has a greater purpose, serving and loving others because He first loved us. I encourage you to seek out things that challenge you in 2018. Let's shake the love around and share hope this year!

**Caroline Breeden**

*Missions Coordinator, Team Member*



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT SPONSORS:

*Mr. Kaplan & his staff; Chris Hawkins & Lissette Martinez, Denis & Joanne Salamone, Jeff & Alyce Sweeney, Clint Hurdle, Anthony & Jenn Paolicelli, Todd Diorio of Union Laborers 17, The Bells at Ethan Allen, Billy Blitzler of NY Pro Scouts Association, Rick Stockfield & Hudson Valley Men's Baseball League, Frito Lay, Stewart's*

## OUR LATEST TRIP

*Newburgh, NY - February 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

The Baseball Miracles team recently made its first trip of 2018 to the City of Newburgh. This community in upstate New York has close ties to numerous volunteers within our organization, with many growing up in the area. Given the close connection to Newburgh, we were compelled to give back to the city on our latest mission trip.

After our team arrived on the evening of the 2nd, they got started bright and early on Saturday morning, participating in a community clean-up with the Friars of St. Mary of the Assumption. Baseball Miracles lent a helping hand cleaning-up the streets of Newburgh, working with members of the community and inviting youth in the area to the free baseball/softball clinic that would be held the next day. The community clean-up was a new addition in giving back on our trips and something we hope to continue in the future.

Following our work with the Friars, the team reconvened for a team meeting, discussing how they could spread as much joy as possible to the local children at the clinic, future communities to help, new initiatives to expand our operations and how to make the team an even more cohesive unit.

Turning the page to the morning of Sunday, February 4th, the team got another early start, setting up the Armory Unity Center in Newburgh for the children who would be attending. Accompanying our staff were numerous MLB scouts, coaches and members of the community. Upon the arrival of the kids, each was made sure to have a glove to use before the clinic got started. Opening introductions were made, including VP of Baseball Operations for the Toronto Blue Jays, Ben Cherington, who spoke with the kids about the importance of having fun, doing your best and supporting their teammates.

Shortly after, the clinic was underway. The kids were taught fundamentals from many MLB professionals, with many of them playing for the very first time. After a lot of play, the kids made their way over to the cafeteria for Baseball Miracles favorite, 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame' luncheon. There, Miami Marlins scout Willie Fraser spoke with the kids and kicked off the raffles of equipment, as well as plenty of give-a-ways. Finally, after a long day of learning, playing and having fun, it was time to go home, but the memories made will be everlasting!

We could not be happier with the success which was Newburgh. Getting a chance to help and work with the children of the city was a true blessing. A big thank you to all the volunteers for their work, all the guest speakers for dedicating their time and Mr. William Kaplan who allowed us to use the Armory Unity Center for the clinic. We cannot wait to see how the kids continue their development as both players and people. Miracles Everyday!

**Kyle Bamberger**

*Communications Coordinator, Team Member*

## BITS & PIECES

**BM Kyle Bamberger** is now our COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER. He shall have multiple roles in our PR quest to 'get our news' out to the public at large. Check out our Baseball Miracles Facebook page.

He will also oversee the INTERNSHIP PROGRAM which is on the grid and our JUNIOR AMBASSADOR program which is attracting qualitative prospects.

**BM Eric Claro** is our WEB SITE DEVELOPER. He has made significant strides for us, by reaching out to prospectus and present donors who enjoy looking at our brand on *baseballmiracles.org*.

On the recent DONATIONS side: **Thank you** to Jeff and Allyce Sweeney, Phoebe Hyman, Clint Hurdle, Tom Rohan, Angelo Fiouris, Taylor Henry, Wooter Apparel, Cameron Bishop and Topps Sports.

**SPECIAL GRATIS** to Advisory Board members Denis and Joanne Salamone, John and Maureen Caroselli and Clint Hurdle for sponsoring our recent trip to NEW ORLEANS, ARGENTINA and the CITY OF NEWBURGH!

WELCOME BACK **BM Sean Kober** and thank you for all the effort you put into getting the food etc. sponsored by your local contacts in the Hudson Valley for the Newburgh Clinic.

**1 GLOVE CAMPAIGN** is alive and kicking for us. Thank you to all the many who donate each and every day. Miracles every day!

**BM Caroline Breeden**, MISSIONS COORDINATOR will now be handling our travel plans. Please contact her for the best route and times. She will oversee our DEVOTIONAL GROUP each mission. She recently facilitated the clinic for the CITY OF NEWBURGH event held on February 4<sup>th</sup> at the Armory with **Roy Underwood** and **Trever Purcell**, TEAM CAPTAINS.

BM announces the signing of **Willie Fraser**, former ML pitcher to our BM staff. Great free agent pick up for our team!

## HIGH FIVE CAMPAIGN

Baseball Miracles will be launching our new campaign for 2018 this upcoming March. The High Five Campaign is a dual-purposed initiative that blends brand awareness with fundraising. Using traditional word-of-mouth and social media platforms, we will be asking the help of our loyal supporters and staff to ignite the program. The idea being that with every contact made, person met or beginning social media post to ask the listener to spread the word of the campaign/Baseball Miracles to 5 people and donate \$5 (or a multiple of 5). The spirit of the campaign lives in connectivity. Using the relationships in your own life, we hope the mission of Baseball Miracles can spread quickly and that the small contributions from many lead to substantial results.



**Kyle Bamberger**  
*Communications Coordinator, Team Member*

## CONGRATS

CONGRATS to **BM Michael McCarthy** on his recent hire with Minnesota Twins and **BM Brian Sweeney** on his promotion with Cleveland Indians.

**BM Kelly Rodman** has been named 2017 part time SCOUT OF THE YEAR by the NY Pro Scouts Association.

## WELCOME NEW INTERNS!

The Baseball Miracles team is happy to announce we are taking the next step in our new internship program!

The program is an opportunity for undergraduate students to gain experience in the marketing and sports industries. The following is a run down of our new intern team members:

### **Jamar James**

Jamar James is a senior at Long Island University, Brooklyn campus majoring in Sports Management. He is an active member of the Sports Management Club where he has participated in a range of activities including volunteering for sport events and supporting a variety of team sports and members. His expected graduation date is June 2018 where he will earn a B.S. degree in Sports Management. He currently works part-time at Under Armour as a Stock Teammate, managing inventory stock, introducing merchandise and promoting new marketing strategies as some of his responsibilities.

### **Madison Reif**

Madison is currently studying at Fordham University and has been working at StubHub for over 2 years. As a junior, she is studying Marketing with a concentration in Sports Business. Madison has a passion for helping people experience their favorite sports, whether it be playing or attending a game. Growing up in a family that worked for the Los Angeles Dodgers, she was raised around baseball and hopes to give back to the community with the help of a sport she loves.

### **Taylor Bamberger**

Taylor Bamberger is currently a student at Towson University, graduating in May 2018 with a dual degree in Mass Communications and Art & Design. She is currently a Business Development Coordinator for a medical staffing company in Maryland and looks forward to continuing her experience in that field upon graduation.