



# WHITE PLAINS LITTLE LEAGUE

PO BOX 325

WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605



February 1, 2020

Dear Friend of White Plains Little League,

As we prepare for the 2020 season, the Board of Directors of White Plains Little League would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to provide you an update on the state of Little League baseball and softball in White Plains.

## 2019 Recap

In 2019, White Plains Little League celebrated its 25th year as an official chapter of Little League International. Our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year kicked off on April 14th with our Opening Day Parade and former New York Yankee and Hall of Famer Mariano Rivera addressing our players and their parents. The season culminated with our 11U boys baseball team winning the New York State 11U Championship and being honored at White Plains City Hall by Mayor Tom Roach and the Common Council.

Our baseball and softball programs had 890 aggregate participants for the spring, summer and fall seasons in 2019, a slight decrease of 4% over 2018, but an increase of 6% from 2017 (836 participants). Encouragingly, we continue to see increases in both softball and the younger baseball divisions.

White Plains Little League prides itself on being committed to the youth of White Plains. All of our participants are residents of White Plains or, in a few cases, are either enrolled in, or are the children of employees of the White Plains school system.

In an effort to make baseball and softball readily accessible to all boys and girls, White Plains Little League provides scholarships to needy participants who request assistance. We also offer family discounts for families of 3 or more participating in the program. In 2019, WPLL granted \$23,050 in scholarships and discounts to White Plains baseball and softball participants, a 7% decline from 2018 but still a 16% increase from the 2017 total of \$19,825.

As usual, the 2019 season for WPLL began in January with training sessions offered in partnership with Hardball in Elmsford, NY. Our 2019 spring season started strong with our Opening Day Parade on April 14<sup>th</sup>, where we honored our 10U boys 2018 baseball team, who were the reigning District 20 tournament champions. Our opening day ceremonies featured appearances by White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, Commissioner Rick Hope and Deputy Commissioner Stefania Mignone of the Department of Public Works, Commissioner Wayne Bass of the Department of Recreation & Parks, Dr. Joseph Rica, Superintendent of WP Public Schools, Assemblyman David Buchwald, and a special appearance by the aforementioned Mr. Mariano Rivera.



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New for 2019 were indoor spring clinics, run by the WPLL Board of Directors, volunteer coaches, and Stepinac and White Plains High School baseball and softball players. These clinics gave participants in our program additional opportunities to develop their skills. The clinics were particularly valuable for younger participants, and the improvement throughout the spring season was noticeable.

The City of White Plains continues to renovate and upgrade our facilities at Gedney Field, as well as baseball and softball fields throughout the City. We remain extremely grateful for their dedication and support and could not operate at the level we do without them.

On Opening Day WPLL conducted its third annual baseball and softball equipment swap program, which enabled WPLL participants to donate and access gently used baseball and softball equipment, making it easier for more boys and girls in White Plains to afford to participate. Opening Day ceremonies were followed by baseball clinics on Gillie Field, with high school baseball and softball players from Stepinac and White Plains High School (most of whom are WPLL alumni) volunteering their time to run drills with WPLL participants.

Although we experienced weather challenges throughout the spring, we completed our league playoffs in early June. Our tournament teams were again highly competitive, with our 11U baseball squad winning the New York State championship, and our Juniors baseball team winning the District 20 championship. This is the first time a White Plains Little League team won the New York State championship, and the coaches and team were honored at the August Common Council meeting with a Proclamation from Mayor Tom Roach who decreed Monday August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 "White Plains Little League 11U New York State Champions Day".

Our tournament, summer and fall teams play teams from neighboring towns at Gedney and Gillie Fields, bringing visitors to White Plains, showcasing our facilities, and creating business for Gedney Way and other White Plains merchants.

## 2020 Outlook

2020 marks our 26<sup>th</sup> year as a Little League organization in White Plains, and registration opened on November 15<sup>th</sup>. As usual, we offered a discount to families who registered by December 31<sup>st</sup>, and we encouragingly saw an uptick in registration for the upcoming spring season. We hope to continue to increase registration over the winter months, with additional outreach to the community. In addition, we will also offer free winter clinics to registered participants at Rochambeau School during the months of January, February and March, in an effort to develop skills and enthusiasm for the game before hitting the fields in April!



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The White Plains Little League Board has begun recruiting sponsors for the 2020 season. In 2019 we had 51 sponsors, which was up slightly from 48 sponsors in 2018 and equal to the 51 sponsors we had in 2017. Notwithstanding the fact that we are not able to sell advertising space at Gedney Field, our program benefits greatly from the generosity of the members of the White Plains business community. Their sponsorship makes it possible to offer scholarships to those in need, while keeping the cost of participation for all others at reasonable and competitive levels. (If you are interested in sponsorship, please visit our sponsorship program here: <http://bit.ly/2H9fZLd> or email me directly at [president@whiteplainslittleleague.com](mailto:president@whiteplainslittleleague.com))

WPLL relies on strong relationships with the City of White Plains and the White Plains School District. We rely on both groups for fields for practices and games, and we rely heavily on the Departments of Public Works and Recreation & Parks to ensure fields are prepared and safe for our participants from April through November. These partnerships have always been, and will continue to be, key to the success of White Plains Little League, and we thank them for their support.

We've prepared this report for you because you are an important partner to White Plains Little League, and we look forward to maintaining that relationship into the future. We hope that you continue to be an advocate and strong supporter of Little League baseball and softball in White Plains and remain someone we can engage to help the White Plains Little League Board ensure the program remains vibrant for many years to come.

Please let me know if you'd like more information on the White Plains Little League program, or if you have suggestions on how we can further improve the program for the citizens of White Plains.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Scully".

Kevin M. Scully

President  
White Plains Little League  
[president@whiteplainslittleleague.com](mailto:president@whiteplainslittleleague.com)

cc: WPLL Board