



East Altadena Little League Celebrating 20 years!

1996 - Building "The Field of Dreams"



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New Little League diamonds dedicated

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STAFF WRITER

PASADENA — The East Altadena Little League scored a major home run Saturday at Longfellow Elementary School, officially dedicating two new fields the league built at the campus.

"This is wonderful," said Pasadena Board of Education President George Padilla. "It improves the school and it improves the community."

Former professional baseball player Jim Gott of Altadena helped league officials dedicate the new Little League diamonds as about 300 adults and children looked on. The ceremony was followed by a family festival featuring music, games for the youngsters, hot dogs and sweets.

Some of the young players said they could not wait to try out the new fields, which include three baseball diamonds and a handicapped-accessible playground.

"It's different, it's a really good field," said Robyn Thomas, 12. "Our old field was dirt, this one is grass."

The project was undertaken as a public-private partnership between the league, the Pasadena Unified School district, Longfellow, the city and the Historic Highlands and Bungalow Heaven neighborhood associations.

It took about nine months to construct the fields, said Robert Meyers, 41, chairman of the field campaign. The project has been in the works for about three years.

"It's like the realization of a dream of a lot of people," Meyers said.

The campus also got 26 new trees, 240 new shrubs and picnic tables. Some of the work — like installing benches, the scoreboard and foul poles, still needs to be done — Meyers said. The league continues to raise money to complete the \$300,000 project and for future maintenance.

"I'm very proud of it — it's beautiful," said Michael Brady, 43, a project manager for Parsons, who designed the fields. A team of landscape artists and engineers donated their time to the project.

Officials said such school-community partnerships are increasing locally. Southwest Pasadena Little League officials are working with McKinley School officials to build new baseball and T-ball fields at that campus.

Last fall, San Rafael School parents rallied together to install new grass at that school, Padilla said.

Bungalow Heaven resident Louise Bell, 41, said she would like to see more partnerships to improve the school district and do some things that are positive for the children in the community," Bell said.

Staff photo by MIKE MULLEN

EAST ALTADENA Little League players get look at new fields on the grounds of Longfellow Elementary School.



and 20 years later

