



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MIRACLE LEAGUE OF SOUTHWESTERN PA TO HOST FIRST ALL-STAR BASEBALL GAME

Several Miracle League teams throughout the region will participate in the All-Star baseball game and festivities July 26-29, 2018.

BUTLER COUNTY, PA (October 17, 2017) – The Miracle League of Southwestern PA along with Butler County Tourism and Cranberry Township will be hosting their first All-Star baseball game at Dick’s Sporting Goods Complex at Graham Park in Cranberry Township July 26-29 of 2018. The game is open to the public and will take place at the Pirates Charities Miracle League Field. Exhibition games will occur during the day leading up to the evening All-Star Game. Various activities will be taking place over the course of the weekend to enhance the overall experience for the kids.

Several Miracle League teams throughout the region and Bradenton, Florida, will travel with their families to Butler County to take part in a fun-filled weekend, all expenses paid. Bradenton, Florida, is home for the Pittsburgh Pirates during spring training. The Miracle League is a national organization focused on building ballfields accommodating to children and adults with special needs. Ballfields are uniquely and specially designed with an all-weather rubberized surface that is handicap accessible and equipped with covered dugouts. There are also no raised surfaces to interfere with crutches, walkers or wheelchairs.

Teams will consist of players from each of the following seven Miracle Leagues: Cranberry Township, Murrysville, Altoona, Indiana, South Hills, Wheeling, WV and Manasota, FL (a suburb of Bradenton, FL). Each player is assigned a “buddy” who will help assist the players batting, running the bases and playing the field. The Miracle League builds confidence and provides kids the opportunity to experience the joy that comes from playing America’s favorite pastime.

“The county is very proud to offer a place where children can play baseball regardless of their abilities. We are excited to be a part of the All-Star game and look forward to raising awareness about the Miracle League of Southwestern PA,” said Jack Cohen, President of the Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau.

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The Miracle League of Southwestern PA, which opened May of 2009 is home to the Pirates Charities Miracle League Field. The field is 14,900 square feet and includes covered dugouts, foul areas, an electronic scoreboard, restroom facilities, a covered pavilion and a brand new accessible playground that features a pirate ship. There's also a player drop off area available for easy access to the field.

A media event is planned for fall 2017 at Dick's Sporting Goods Complex at Graham Park, where Mike Sherry, President of the Miracle League of Southwestern PA, will discuss the All-Star game and correlated activities in further detail.

ABOUT BUTLER COUNTY

Butler County is located along Interstate 79 in the rolling hills just north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Butler County is filled with gorgeous scenery, recreational activities and more than 200 years of history. It's the perfect place for a weekend getaway with upscale hotels, charming bed and breakfasts and rustic camp sites. Moraine State Park is the centerpiece of the county's outdoor life with more than 15,000 acres offering fishing, boating, biking, hiking and hunting. For more information, explore www.VisitButlerCounty.com.

ABOUT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE OF SOUTHWESTERN PA

The Miracle League of Southwestern Pennsylvania (MLSWPA) was formed in January 2007 and is dedicated to providing the opportunity for children and adults with physical and mental disabilities to play organized baseball.

In addition to organizing a league for special needs children and adults, the MLSWPA built a facility that meets the unique needs of this special group of children and adults. Affiliated with the National Miracle League Baseball organization, the MLSWPA reached an agreement with Cranberry Township to integrate a Miracle League Field into the baseball complex that the Township developed in the new Dick's Sporting Goods Complex at Graham Park.

Opening Day for the Miracle League of Southwestern Pennsylvania was on May 16, 2009. The MLSWPA is committed to expanding its offerings and support to special needs children and adults in Western Pennsylvania.

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