



# The Line Up

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Monday, July 25, 2016

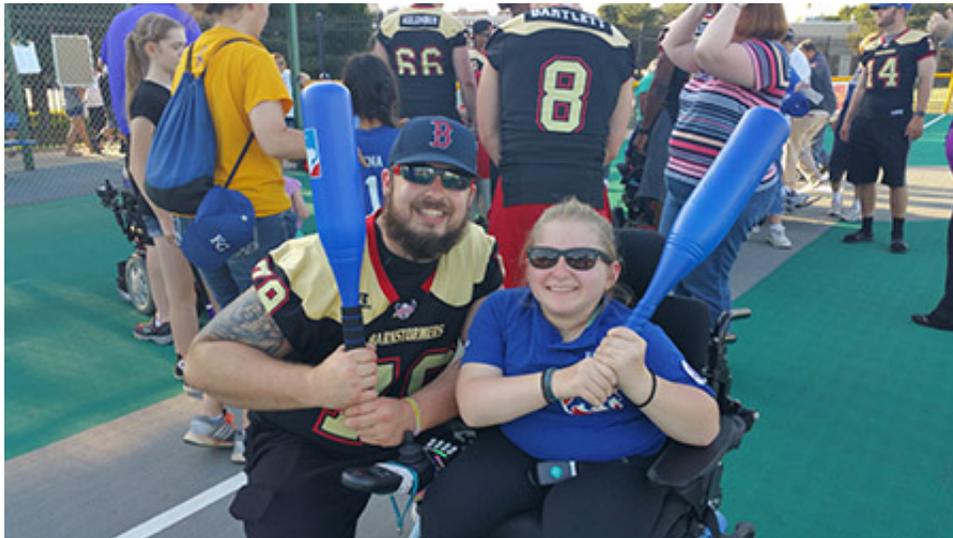
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## Highlight Reel

### Spring Season Recap



Our Barnstormer friends make great buddies!



Des Moines Police and Fire Departments were special buddies on June 14

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS OF SPRING SEASON 2016!](#)

The Spring Season for 2016 is in the books! It really went fast and unfortunately HOT June weather caused us to cancel one whole Saturday and two afternoons! The days we did play had great attendance and spectators! Of course, the Barnstormers and the DM Police & Fire Buddies Games were fun for all! But cannot forget our first ever AWAY games playing Ankeny Miracle League Park!

The Fall Season will be here soon!! Opening Day for Fall will be August 27th. All players will have their new uniforms that day and we will have the photographer there to take Pictures!!! If you are only playing in the spring season this year and want your picture taken ... please come to the ball field on the 27th.

We will play the Saturday of Labor Day weekend so if you are in town come down, look for more information on this at a later date.

Our HOME game against the Ankeny Miracle League Park will be September 12th and our end of the year pizza party is October 15th.

Have a GREAT and SAFE July and August and I will see you all on August 27th!



### **History-Making 'All-Metro Miracle League Games' Bring Kiwanis Miracle League and Ankeny Miracle League Participants Together to Play Ball**

Everyone attending or participating in the inaugural All-Metro Miracle League Games on May 23rd felt they were part of something special! For the first time, Kiwanis Miracle League participants and Ankeny Miracle League participants played together. Hosted by Ankeny at their Miracle Park facility, 40+ participants of KML and 40+ participants of the Ankeny program played in one of the two evening games held under the lights.

Organizers with both programs thought it would be a lot of fun for the Miracle Leagues to provide opportunities for participants to experience 'away' games. This first set of games proved to be so much fun, that a second evening is planned for September 12, and will be hosted by Kiwanis Miracle League at Principal Park.

Kids, families, and volunteers all had a wonderful time; media outlets WHOTV-13 and WOITV-5 covered the event, with kids reporting they enjoyed meeting other kids and playing with kids they'd never played with before.

Watch for information about the upcoming September games! And as more Miracle League programs are formed in Central Iowa and beyond, perhaps program organizers and volunteers can create additional opportunities for 'away' games – with KML participants meeting even more kids and playing ball on more fields!



**Justice Corps of Iowa**

The Justice Corps of Iowa is a collective group of super hero and villain performers whose mission is to "inspire smiles, while lifting hearts". Several of the performers paid us a visit on two Saturdays in June. What fun.

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## **Next Up!**

### **Kiwanis Miracle League Adult League Forming this Fall!**

Calling all baseball lovers! We're starting an adult league for the Fall 2016 Season and our games will be played from 4:00-5:00pm. If you've played in the Miracle League before and have aged out of the youth league OR if you're an adult who would like to play for the first time we'd love to have you come join in the fun. Be sure to "bring your own buddy" as we won't be able to provide Buddies during the first season. Since this is brand new for all of us we'll start with a "pickup" style game and let everyone bat, throw, run the bases, or whatever suits their fancy!

You can register on line at [Kiwanismiracleleague.org](http://Kiwanismiracleleague.org).

Questions? Contact board members Mike Schneider ([kelcorsdad@msn.com](mailto:kelcorsdad@msn.com)) or Rob Baldus ([Robert.baldus@wellsfargo.com](mailto:Robert.baldus@wellsfargo.com))

**Register!**  
Adults 19 & Over

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## Register Now for the Fall Season!

It's time to register for 2016 Fall Season. All kids with special needs ages 5 - 18 who want to play ball on a non-competitive co-ed team are eligible! If you played in the 2016 Spring and registered for both seasons, you don't need to do a thing!

You can access our player registration system by simply going to our web site: [www.kiwanismiracleleague.org](http://www.kiwanismiracleleague.org) and clicking on the purple REGISTER button, or you can click the registration button below.

**Register!**  
Youth 5-18

Questions? Contact Joyce Byrne, player committee chair, at [joycelbyrne@aol.com](mailto:joycelbyrne@aol.com) or 515.208.0822.

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## Become a 2016 Team Sponsor!

**Ever wanted to own your own baseball team? ★**  
★ ★ **Now you can!**



## It's not too late to become a 2016 Team Sponsor!

Your contribution of \$500 will go a long way in helping the Kiwanis Miracle League continue to be available to all of our players free of charge.

You or your company will get a vinyl banner that will hang on our dugouts throughout the 2016 season. You'll be listed on our web site and in the many brochures we make available throughout the year. But best of all, you'll be helping our players realize their dreams of playing baseball on a real team and on a real field!

Contact Jan Burch, board president, for more information 515.457.7691 or [burchhr@aol.com](mailto:burchhr@aol.com).

[Download the KML Team Sponsor Brochure >>](#)

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## Player's Corner



Kiwaniis Miracle League Player Hannah Corkrean with Buddy

### I Believe

*Written by Hannah Corkrean, member of the Marlins team*

As a person with mobility challenges (I've never referred to myself as having disabilities), I'm able to do anything and everything I want. This I believe. There may be barriers at times but I've always found a way to overcome them. Rarely, if ever have I taken "no" for an answer when I've wanted to do something a little differently. One of my favorite sports is softball. While I might not be able to participate in high school softball, I can participate in an adapted league called Miracle League. I enjoy hitting the ball off the pitcher and running the bases in my walker. This is a feeling that never gets old. No matter what your abilities are, having a leisure activity to enjoy should be a regular part of your life.

Even though I have mobility challenges, service to others is still a passion of mine. I'm half way to achieving a service cord at graduation. I've consistently volunteered at Meals From the Heartland, Ronald McDonald House, and The Salvation Army. I get great joy from helping others in need. No matter what your abilities are, service to those less fortunate should be a

priority.

In conclusion, people with mobility challenges should be encouraged to participate in things outside of their comfort zone. I have found great joy in experiencing things that at first seemed scary and difficult. Sometimes you just have to put your mind to it and live life to the fullest.

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## Coach's Corner



Kent Babcock with Grand-nephew Luke

### **"Every child deserves a chance to play baseball"**

*By Kent Babcock, Assistant Coach, Dodgers, & Board Member*

In church one Sunday, I visited Jan and Bob (yes, that Jan and Bob) about an event called Kiwanis Miracle League.

"How does one get involved," I asked. Less than two weeks later, I was an assistant coach for the KML Dodgers! The rest is history.

During my forty years of teaching and coaching in the Des Moines Public Schools, I came to believe that working with kids was my calling. It wasn't until the last seven years of my career that I truly felt blessed working with special needs kids at Ruby Van Meter. These kids ranged from severe and profound to behavior disabilities. Along with being in the classroom, I helped

with the swim team, which had the opportunity to attend Special Olympics every year. I was totally amazed with the abilities of those very special kids. It was the most rewarding time of my chosen profession.

Then came the opportunity to volunteer with the Kiwanis Miracle League. Working alongside a group of extremely dedicated folks whose goal is to make eight Saturdays in the spring and in the fall something I loved to do. For one hour on a Saturday, parents, grandparents, guardians, and caretakers watch children engage in the "national pastime" with the feeling that it is the Major Leagues. The "special" nights with the Iowa Barnstormers and DM Police and Fire Fighters, plus "road games" at Ankeny are some of the unique times that Miracle League players get to have even more fun. To watch our athletes interact with their "buddies" and the aforementioned folks is truly an unforgettable, heartwarming experience. I could not think of a better way to spend a few Saturdays in the spring and fall than at Kiwanis Miracle League at Principal Park, "the happiest place in Des Moines."

Come and join us, better yet, get involved.

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## Volunteer's Corner



Barnstormers' Storm Chasers were special buddies on June 4.

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## Donor News & Opportunities



### Pie Five Pizza Day

Both the Kiwanis Miracle League and the Ankeny Miracle League were the beneficiaries of proceeds from the soft opening of the new Pie Five Pizza place in Ankeny. Thank you, Pie Five Pizza! Didn't get to the opening? Be sure to check out this great KML friend--1315 SW Oralabor Road, #1, Ankeny. They're open 11 AM - 10 PM. It's YUMMY pizza!

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### Wellmark and "Barney" Present Check to Kiwanis Miracle League

Jan Burch and Bob Mitchell attended the Barnstormer/Cedar Rapids game where Barnstormer officials and Wellmark representatives presented the KML with a check for \$1,000. Barney the Barnstormer won the Grand Blue Mile race at the Drake Relays and donated his winnings to the KML! Thank you, Barney!

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## Remember AmazonSmile for Kiwanis Miracle League

Amazon's second-annual Prime Day was July 12 and featured more than 100,000 deals exclusively for Prime members, making it one of the biggest shopping days of the year. Did you shop at Amazon.com on the 12th? Remember, if you name the Kiwanis Miracle League as your charity of choice and shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com), Amazon will donate to Miracle League of Des Moines Kiwanis.

The next time you hop online at Amazon.com, simply enroll in AmazonSmile and name the MIRACLE LEAGUE OF DES MOINES KIWANIS as your charity of choice. Why? Because .05% of your purchases will be donated to the Kiwanis Miracle League! First time shoppers should go to [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) to set up your account naming the KML as your charity. Frequent long-time shoppers can designate just as easily. It's a one-time thing—and will benefit Des Moines' favorite ball park! Thanks!

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## Save on Your Taxes While Helping The Kiwanis Miracle League

The *Kiwanis Miracle League* Board has established an *Endow Iowa Fund* with the *Greater Des Moines Community Foundation*. This is an exciting new opportunity for our friends and families to help us secure the financial future for the league and, at the same time, save big dollars on their income taxes.

Donors who give to an Endow Iowa Fund not only can deduct the gift on their federal income tax return, but can get credit against their state income taxes in the amount of 25% of their gift. Instead of a state tax deduction, which might result in a tax savings up to 8%, donors get a credit of 25% - regardless of whether they itemize deductions or not! Here's an example:

	\$1,000 Gift to <i>Miracle League</i>	vs	\$1,000 Gift to <i>Endow Iowa Fund</i>
Federal tax savings	\$ 280		\$ 280
State tax savings	\$ 50		\$ 250
<b>Net cost of gift</b>	<b>\$ 670</b>		<b>\$ 470</b>

\*Assumes 28% tax bracket for federal and 5% tax bracket for state.

Donations to an *Endow Iowa Fund* must be made to the *Greater Des Moines Community Foundation* for the benefit of the *Miracle League of Des Moines Kiwanis Endow Iowa Fund*.

Principal amounts donated to the fund are held and managed by the community foundation, and the *Kiwanis Miracle League* can draw as much as 5% from the fund annually to use in whatever way best benefits the league.

So now our donors have choices – they can make donations directly to the *Kiwanis Miracle League* for use in covering operating expenses and capital improvements – and deduct those gifts as charitable deductions on their state and federal tax returns, or they can contribute to the *Greater Des Moines Community Foundation* for the *Miracle League's Endow Iowa Fund*, and get a 25% tax credit against their state income taxes, in addition to their usual federal charitable deduction.



State tax credits are allocated to donors on a first come, first served basis annually – until the total amount of credits allowed by the state are used up. This year \$6 million in tax credits are available!

Help the *Miracle League* continue to offer a special place for special needs children enjoy playing baseball on a team – donate to the *Miracle League* or to the *Miracle League's Endow Iowa Fund*. Talk to your tax advisor about how these choices might affect your personal tax situation.

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## Our KML Calendar of Events

**Aug 18:** KML Board Meeting, 7:30 AM, Hamilton's on Westown Parkway

**Aug 27:** FALL SEASON BEGINS—7 games, 9 AM - 3 PM, adult game 4 PM. ALSO Picture day—wear your uniform!

**AUGUST - OCTOBER 2016:** [FALL SCHEDULE >>](#)

**Sep 3:** KML games, 9 AM - 3 PM, adult game 4 PM

**Sep 10:** KML games, 9 AM - 3 PM, adult game 4 PM

**Sep 12:** KML "hosts" Ankeny for All-Metro Miracle League Games at KML Ball Park, 6:00 and 7:00 PM games

**Sept 15:** KML Board Meeting, 7:30 AM, Hamilton's on Westown Parkway

**Sep 17:** KML games, 9 AM - 3 PM, adult game 4 PM

Sep 24: KML games, 9 AM - 3 PM, adult game 4 PM

Oct 1: KML games, 9 AM - 3 PM, adult game 4 PM

Oct 8: KML games, 9 AM - 3 PM, adult game 4 PM—last day of 2016 fall season

Oct 15: End of Season Trophy/Pizza Party, noon - 2 PM, Lutheran Church of Hope



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The Kiwanis Miracle League's quarterly newsletter *The Lineup* is published via **WinM@il**, publisher Kathryn Towner [kt@wincommunications.com](mailto:kt@wincommunications.com). Please direct questions or comments to the editors: Nadine Kastner, [nadine.kastner@meredith.com](mailto:nadine.kastner@meredith.com), Carol Towner, [cstone625@aol.com](mailto:cstone625@aol.com) or Jan Burch, Jan Burch & Associates, [Burchhr@aol.com](mailto:Burchhr@aol.com).

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