

LITTLE LEAGUE[®] INTERNATIONAL



The Little League[®] Urban Initiative, established in 1999, is a component of Little League Baseball and Softball and is currently operating with more than 220 leagues in nearly 90 cities in the United States. Through the 2011 Little League season, the Little League Urban Initiative has stimulated the participation of 4,000 teams, which equals out to approximately 52,000 players, and has participated nearly 30 field renovation and development projects. The Little League Urban Initiative provides assistance packages for eligible leagues that aid the local volunteer group with equipment acquisition, capital improvement cash grants, field development and renovation, access to Little League Baseball and Softball Education and Training programs, advocacy, and networking.

Little League® Urban Initiative

TRAINING AND EDUCATION:

The Little League Urban Initiative promotes recruitment and retention for local leagues through Little League Training and Education programs. At various times throughout the year, Little League provides a variety of clinics at its five regional centers and at Little League International in Williamsport. The clinic topics include instruction for managers, coaches, umpires and league administrators, with emphasis on safety, child protection, and parent orientation. Any volunteer

involved with a local Urban Initiative league can attend any of the clinics at no charge and receive resource materials free or at a reduced cost.

NETWORKING/ADVOCACY:

Because many of the Little League Urban Initiative leagues and independent organizations operating in these environments face the same problems, networking opportunities are crucial to the growth of a volunteer-based organization. Little League encourages mentoring relationships with other Urban Initiative leagues, working toward positive relationships with the appropriate municipal agencies, developing an assessment of their program's budgetary needs and concerns, and compiling a list of funding opportunities in their communities.

THE PRESENT, THE FUTURE:

Other aspects of the Little League Urban Initiative include a Summer Baseball Camp Scholarship for players ages 10-14; The Howard & Gail Paster Urban Initiative Volunteer of the Year Award given annually during the Little League World Series; and the numerous Urban Initiative Jamboree events that take place across the country each spring. Additionally, the Little League Urban Initiative plans to continue to help renovate and develop Little League fields for Urban Initiative leagues.



These companies and organizations have supported and contributed to the Little League Urban Initiative:

- The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- The Wilson Sporting Goods Company
- Major League Baseball
- The American Honda Motor Company
- Bank of America
- The Torii Hunter Project
- The Walt Disney Company
- Popular Mechanics Magazine
- Comcast/The Comcast Foundation
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- The 25th Century Foundation
- The Tampa Bay Rays
- The Los Angeles Dodgers
- The San Diego Padres

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