



Miracle League of Southwestern Pennsylvania (MLSWPA)

Funding Proposal: Accessible Grandstand at the Pirates Charities Miracle League Field

1. Executive Summary

The Miracle League of Southwestern Pennsylvania (MLSWPA), founded in 2009 as the first fully accessible baseball field for children and adults with special needs in western Pennsylvania, now serves more than 1,000 athletes, families, and volunteers each year. Located at the UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park in Cranberry Township, the Pirates Charities Miracle League Field has become a regional hub for inclusive recreation, community connection, and joyful participation in America's pastime.

To meet growing demand and ensure safe, dignified, and comfortable viewing for all spectators, MLSWPA seeks **\$500,000** to construct a permanent, fully accessible grandstand. This investment will provide covered seating, improved sightlines, ADA-compliant access, and safer circulation—enhancing the game-day experience and expanding our capacity to host camps, tournaments, and community events. The grandstand is essential infrastructure that will strengthen our long-term sustainability and deepen our impact for decades to come.

2. Organization Background

MLSWPA's mission is to give children and adults with special needs the opportunity to experience the joy of playing baseball in a league-based environment. Our specially designed rubberized turf field allows athletes of all abilities to participate safely and confidently, supported by volunteers, caregivers, and a deeply committed community.

For more than 15 years, MLSWPA has operated with a volunteer board, strong municipal partnerships, and a proven record of responsible stewardship. We collaborate closely with Cranberry Township and Pirates Charities to maintain a high-quality, inclusive facility that reflects our region's values of dignity, belonging, and community pride.

3. Statement of Need

The Pirates Charities Miracle League Field is where our athletes shine—and where families gather to celebrate their achievements. As participation continues to grow, our current spectator accommodation is no longer adequate.

In 2025 alone, more than **950 athletes and volunteers** participated in our programs. On peak game days, more than 200 spectators gather at the field, creating crowding that is especially challenging for individuals using mobility devices, seniors, and medically fragile family members.

Key challenges include:

- Insufficient accessible seating for wheelchairs and mobility devices
- Exposure to heat, sun, and rain, which can be dangerous for medically sensitive spectators
- Overcrowded and uneven viewing areas that create safety and accessibility concerns
- Limited capacity to host larger events, tournaments, and community celebrations

A permanent accessible grandstand is the next critical step in ensuring our facility matches the inclusive, welcoming experience we provide on the field.

4. Project Description

MLSWPA will construct a permanent, accessible grandstand designed specifically for our athletes, families, and community.

Key features include:

- Increased spectator capacity with safe, comfortable seating
- ADA-compliant access, including ramps and companion seating
- Integrated wheelchair spaces with unobstructed sightlines
- Improved crowd flow through defined entry/exit paths and railings
- Shade or covering (pending final design) to reduce heat and weather exposure
- A more professional, welcoming environment for athletes, families, volunteers, and visitors

Final design, materials, and seating capacity will be confirmed during the design and bidding process to ensure maximum accessibility and value.

5. Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: Improve accessibility and comfort for families and fans

- Expanded accessible seating options
- Safer, more navigable viewing areas

Goal 2: Increase program and event capacity

- Ability to host larger crowds, tournaments, and community events
- Increased regional visibility and partnership opportunities

Goal 3: Strengthen long-term sustainability

- Enhanced donor confidence and sponsorship appeal

- Expanded opportunities for events, rentals, and community engagement
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6. Who Benefits

This project will benefit:

- Athletes with disabilities, who thrive in a supportive, energized environment
- Families and caregivers, who will have safe, comfortable, accessible seating
- Seniors and individuals with mobility challenges
- School groups, volunteers, and community partners
- The broader region through expanded inclusive programming

Most importantly, families who have never had a fully accessible place to cheer for their loved ones will finally have a safe, dignified space to share in the joy of the game.

7. Project Plan & Timeline

Phase 1: Design & Engineering (1–3 months) – Finalize scope, accessibility features, and permitting.

Phase 2: Bidding & Contractor Selection (1–2 months) – Competitive bids, contract award, and construction schedule.

Phase 3: Construction (3–5 months) – Site preparation, foundations, structure, accessibility features, and finishing.

Phase 4: Opening & Community Celebration – Ribbon cutting, donor recognition, and inaugural “Grandstand Game Day.”

8. Budget Overview

Total Project Cost: \$500,000

Illustrative cost categories:

- Design, engineering, and permitting
- Site preparation and foundations
- Structural framing and seating system
- ADA accessibility features
- Roof or covering (if included)
- Electrical or lighting enhancements (if included)
- Contingency and project management

Competitive bidding and value-engineering will ensure the responsible use of philanthropic dollars.

9. Funding Request

MLSWPA seeks **\$500,000** in philanthropic support to complete the grandstand project. Funds will be used for design, permitting, materials, labor, and accessibility components.

We welcome:

- Lead-gift naming opportunities
 - Multi-year pledges
 - Corporate sponsorships
 - Foundation support
 - Community campaign contributions
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10. Sustainability

MLSWPA and Cranberry Township will maintain the grandstand through routine facility care, volunteer support, and annual operating funds. The improved infrastructure will also strengthen long-term sustainability by increasing sponsorship opportunities, community engagement, and event-based revenue.

11. Recognition & Stewardship

Recognition opportunities include:

- Grandstand naming rights
 - Seat or section sponsorships
 - Recognition wall or plaque
 - Sponsor signage during events
 - Press releases, social media features, and opening-day recognition
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12. Closing

The Miracle League Field is where athletes experience the thrill of the game and the strength of community. An accessible grandstand will ensure that every family—regardless of ability—can safely and comfortably celebrate those moments together. We invite partners to join MLSWPA in creating a facility that reflects our shared values of dignity, inclusion, and joy.

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