



Cranston National-Budlong Little League
Autumn St.
Cranston, RI 02910

May 14, 2008

Ms. Hillary Wright
19 Quincy Ave.
Quincy, MA 02169

Dear Ms. Wright:

Please accept this essay as Cranston National-Budlong Little League's (CNBLL) entry into your fourth Granite City Electric Field of Dreams contest. I cannot begin to imagine how exciting it was for the baseball/softball leagues from Whitman, Pembroke, and Holliston to have won your previous three contests.

Our baseball league formed in 1964 as Cranston National Little League and merged with the Budlong Baseball League in 1997 to form CNBLL. In 2000, CNBLL added a girls' fast pitch softball division. Since the formation of the girls' league, we have won numerous district titles. Last year, our softball major leaguers won the Rhode Island State Title, which allowed them to travel to Syracuse, NY to compete in the Eastern Regional Tournament. What made this an even bigger accomplishment was the very limited availability of fields for the girls to practice and play games on. The boys' leagues dominate most of the playing time on our two main fields. Consequently, only two days per week (Wed. & Sun.) are available to schedule games at our main complex. Other days, they are forced to play games and practice at a middle-school field, sharing it with soccer, football, and other baseball players. It is not uncommon to have to halt games while balls or players come on to the field. These girls deserve something better for all their hard work and effort.

CNBLL is geographically located in a blue-collar section of Cranston. It is very hard to be able to raise the funds necessary from our community for costly capital projects. But, if we were to realize our Field of Dreams and obtain lighting from Granite City Electric for one of our main fields, we would be able to dedicate our other field exclusively for softball. For the first time in their league's existence, our girls would have a field they could call home and take the next step they have proven they are ready for. It would allow us to be able to host district and state tournaments instead of having to travel to them all the time. It would allow them to play in a safer, more exclusive environment rather than having to share a field with other sports. It would give them a better sense of belonging to our league rather than having them feel like outsiders. Finally, it would give all of the kids in our league the chance to play a baseball or softball game under the lights. Growing up, I played in a league that had lights and it was something I took for granted. I assumed everyone had that opportunity. As a league administrator in a league that doesn't have lights, I can now see how lucky I was.

I would like to thank Granite City Electric, as well as Glynn Electric and Reflex Lighting Groups for giving us, and everyone, an opportunity to realize their dreams of having a lighted field. It is a tremendous service to New England's youth sports community.

Sincerely,

Donald Botts
Board of Directors
Cranston National-Budlong L.L.



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