

June 27, 1999

Dear Tammy and Rose,

Tony and I would like to thank you for inviting us to the awards picnic and presenting the Volunteer Award. It was wonderful to see what became of an organization that started out with four teams. We were able to have our awards banquets at the Northeast High cafeteria. What a difference 24 years make.

You are all doing a wonderful job! I know there are days when things are not going right and you get frustrated. Your children will never tell you this until they become adults, but they respect the fact that their parents are volunteers. By your example, you are raising another generation of volunteers. So, hang in there even on bad days. Remember, your kids will never recall the type of car you drove when they were growing up, but they will always remember the time you gave them. It is time well spent.

We wish that the reporters who talk about the demise of the American family could have been at the Pasadena Clinic League Picnic on Saturday. It did our hearts good to see the pure joy on the faces of the parents and the kids. Keep up the good work! We were very proud to see what had become of our original \$200 investment. It was the best money we have ever spent. Thank you again for all your hard work.

Sincerely,


Tony & Kathy Reina

February 12, 2000

The following memories of the founding of the Pasadena Clinic League are based on memories of 25 years ago. If we forget anyone, it is not intentional. Over the years the notes from the first meetings have been lost. These would provide a better record than our memories, but we will do our best.

In April of 1975, Tony Reina had volunteered to coach a team in a new T-Ball program that Riviera Beach Little League was forming. Tony was 27 years old at the time. He had been coaching in Riviera Beach Little League since he was 16 and had coached its all-star team one year. He was happy to start coaching T-Ball because his young sons were becoming old enough to play ball, and he thought it was a great idea that players be in a teaching league for a few years before they start in a competitive league. The league was supposed to be non-competitive and they were to play with a T-ball rather than the normal hard ball used in little league. However, the president of the Riviera Little League decided that they were going to have a day to rate players and then put them on their respective teams. They further decided to play with a hard ball and to have standings. Although Tony had always coached competitive ball, he thought that in this instance Riviera Beach was not doing what it had promised the parents when they signed up for T-Ball. When he could not convince Riviera Beach to go back to what they originally had promised, he started a new league. We put a letter to the editor in the Gazette about the formation of the new league and why we were starting it. A lot of parents in the Riviera Beach T-Ball had no idea that the rules had changed on them. We had calls from parents who wanted their kids in this league and were willing to work to get it started. There was also a letter to the editor suggesting we were out of our minds wanting to start a non-competitive league for children.

We think it was late May when we started. Tony and I had received some kind of rebate from the government of \$200 a few weeks before. It was a tax cut program that President Ford had proposed. As I remember, every tax payer got some sort of tax rebate. We decided to use this \$200 and the registration money from the new players to start the league. We had to buy T-balls, bats, catcher's equipment and shirts and hats for the players. We couldn't afford to buy monogrammed shirts, so the mothers used liquid embroidery to put the names of the teams on the shirts. One of the fathers made our T's. We do not have any team pictures of the first year. We had team pictures taken at the end of the year. The photographer was so bad that some of the heads were cut out of the picture. I threw mine away. I'm sorry I did now. Hopefully, I will eventually find someone who kept theirs. We had 4 teams and about 50 children that year. The teams were the Superstars, Eagles, Orioles and Sluggers. We played our games behind Northeast High School. The fathers umpired the games. The county still paid us for umpires. We put all that money into the treasury to pay for our expenses. We incorporated that year. Tony Reina, Sr., Kathryn Reina and John Swarthout were our incorporators. The first couple of years we held our meetings at Magothy United Methodist Church. After a few years, we changed them to the Riviera Beach Library. In our original by-laws we said if we disbanded any money that was left in the treasury would go to Magothy Methodist Church. We did this for 2 reasons. The first reason was

that the church let us have their Sunday School room for free. The second reason was that we were worried that another league would take us over and get the money in our treasury. We thought it was a way for us to protect our league. We managed to make it through that first season. At the end of the season we had a dance at Earleigh Heights Fire Department which sold out. We were in the black by the end of our first season. We got back our \$200 and by the next year we could afford the shirts that were printed up for us. We received 1st place trophies from the county. We gave them to our 7 year olds. Each and every one of them was picked to be an all-star. They were given the bigger trophies at the banquet and they played a competitive all-star game with another team consisting of 8 year olds. We rented a school bus and went to play the game behind a fire house. Tony thinks it was called Fuchs fire house. I only remember it was about an hour away. Tony also thought he proved his point that the players would be ready to play competitively if they were first taught how to play the game. They won that game. Our first banquet was held at Northeast High cafeteria. All the players were given trophies. The county paid for the seven year old trophies and the league paid for the trophies for the 5 and 6 year olds.

By the second year we knew we were going to make it. We know we added at least 2 new teams, The Little Tippers, the Little Macs. There might have been more, but they are the only two we can remember. We named one team the Little Macs so we could get a sponsorship from MacDonalds. We had spent the winter before trying to get sponsorships for the teams. I think we asked \$100 to sponsor a team. I think the registration fee was around \$15 per child. This included getting a shirt, hat and trophy at the end of the year. By the second year we had a concession stand. This consisted of me or another mother bringing a foldout long table and selling gum, candy and sodas. I remember one time I bought gum that had tattoos on the wrappers. Tony was ready to kill me because all the players who had bought the gum were more busy playing with their tattoos than watching the ball.

By the third year our teams had increased again, and we think it was at this time that Riviera Beach had dropped its T-ball program. Riviera Beach called Tony and asked if their children who had signed up to play in their program could play in ours, for they planned to disband the T-Ball program. After these children joined the Pasadena League it became clear that Riviera Beach and Pasadena could and would respect each other's programs. Tony talked the county into building us our own field behind Sunset school. They built a backstop and a field for us. (In the meantime Lithicum Ferndale was asking the county for new fields for the past 2 years and we got ours within a few weeks of the request.) Lucky we guessed. By the next year Fort Smallwood ask us to play in an all star game and we accepted.

Out of our program the game grew. Havenwood , under George Hatch's presidency asked Tony if he would give them our rules. They started their program , but changed some of the rules to fit their program. Later Lake Shore and Baltimore would add similar programs. Some children from as far away as Baltimore came to play in our program. In the third year we knew we were an established organization when we received invitations to play in many all star games and the first crop of 5 year olds were becoming 7 and were holding their own against 8 and 9 year olds.

Some of the rules were that there was no score. The end of each inning came when there were either three outs, 10 runs or the whole team batted. Players could not play the same position every inning. In Tony's case he rotated players after every batter in the last inning to insure all the kids had a chance to play the infield, except for his catcher who was rotated every inning. Many coaches did it after every inning. We played with a T-Ball so the players would learn how to catch a ball first before they played with a hard ball.

One of the hardest decisions Tony had to make was the rule on 8 year olds. In the middle of the year a Team asked if an 8 year old could join our league. He had been struck by a hardball and became scared. Tony's ruling was that we should not deny a child a chance to play. The only provision was he could not play infield but for one inning a game. Also since we were non- competitive and wanted to be fair we should allow children who parents felt their child was not ready to play little league, a chance.

Tony was President of the Pasadena Clinic League for 5 years. We moved away at the end of the 1979 season. By the time we moved the Pasadena Clinic League was thriving. Every year we had to add teams and find coaches with the philosophy that a child had to be taught how to play baseball before he could play competitively. When we attended the 1999 picnic, we were overwhelmed with pride that this league that was formed in someone's kitchen had become such an overwhelming success. We were proud to see such wonderful parents doing something wonderful for their children. Time spent with your children is time well spent. Today we still see young adults from those first years in the malls and at fast food restaurants. They always come up and say hi or remember when.

Our first coaches were:

Superstars – Tony Reina, 7911 Pepperbox Lane, Pasadena, Md. 21122
410-437-3219

Eagles – John Swarthout We haven't seen him in years, but the address we have for him is 1608 Wall Drive, Pasadena, Md. 21122. John also signed the incorporation papers. 410-255-6999

Eagles – Dennie and Doug White We have not seen them in years and cannot find their name in the telephone book. They not only coached, but also did a lot of work on the board.

Orioles – Carol and Ron Surguy – They are now divorced. We have Carol's address. It is 7734 Meadow Road, Pasadena, Md. 21122. 410-255-5922

Sluggers – Jane Weber 502 Jetty Court, Severna Park, Md. 21146, 410-647-0111

We added new coaches our second year. Bruce Smith coached the Little Tippers. His wife, Gail became our corresponding secretary. They were wonderful workers.

8134 High Point Road, Baltimore, Md. 21226. 410-255-3213.

John Herbert came into the league that year with his young son, J.J. His son had an illness at the time, which required him to wear braces for a couple of years. John thought his son would not be able to play ball. Tony put J.J. on our team and J.J. had a great time. Since the league did not keep score it didn't matter that J.J. could not run fast with his braces and when he was tired another child ran for him. By the next year John had become the vice-president of the league and coach of the Giants.

Carol Easton ran all of our dances for us in those first five years. Our dances were always sold out and she managed to make a great profit for us at each dance. She always had the Sentry's as our band. It was this great band who had a large following. 3914 Chesley Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21206

I hope these ramblings help you. As I get older I save more and more things. Unfortunately, I wasn't as sentimental when we were forming the league. I wished I had saved more. Once again, You all are doing a tremendous job. There will be disagreements along the way. Don't let them get you down. There were more than one disagreement in the five years we ran this league. That is part of dealing with many different personalities and perspectives. Tony always tried to resolve these by thinking about what was best for the kids not what was best for him or any other adult. Keep up the good work!!

Sincerely,

Kathy Reina

Sorry this took so long to finish.