

10/29/15

Halfway Families & Supporters-

The question has been asked why do we do so much fundraising? I think that is a fair question and I would like to make sure that our families and our supporters understand the answer - unfortunately it is not answered in just one sentence so please stick with me! Halfway Little League is registered non-profit organization we are completely dependent on fundraising, grants and other donations for our operation. The Board of Directors including myself as President do not get paid, we are all volunteers. However, the League does have expenses, many are not even thought about. We are required to pay yearly Little League Charter fee, insurance liability as well as district fee's, all-star fee's and tournament fee's. We pay utility bills (electric, propane, security system, phone bill) and our property insurance. We also have costs associated with maintaining the fields- (gas/ maintenance/ purchase for the mowers & other equipment, paint/ chalk for the lines, upkeep to the irrigation system, professional weed control and fertilization of all fields, regular ball mix dirt, field conditioner, stay dry material). There is equipment & uniforms (practice balls, nets, screens, baseballs (\$50 a dozen), softballs (over \$50 a dozen), scorebooks, line-up cards, catchers gloves/ equipment, bases and so much more!) We also have a monthly bank loan for the field lights that were installed a number of years ago and there are expenses associated with other maintenance, like the fire suppression system in the concession stand or the hood needs cleaned, or when the Air Conditioning/ Heat goes out, ice machine breaks, freezer dies. We try to use volunteers as much as possible but you can't always and sometimes you absolutely can't.

Some of our biggest expenses come from projects that we have to do to maintain the facility. Last winter we built two new dugouts on the major league softball field, and they cost over \$22,000 thankfully we had a generous grant from the Norm Roberts foundation of \$10,000 to help with some of the cost. We were also able to replace and repaired some of the fencing around the fields, batting cages/ bull pen areas with \$2,500 in gaming commission funds that we applied for in FY 2014. This past summer the Washington Co. Parks let us know that we had a list of projects that we need to have completed they included having the roofs to all the buildings & dugouts redone including the fascia, which has just been completed at the cost of \$12,000, which was a blessing that we had a company step up and help us out on a bid because other local bids were more than double in cost. Thank You Right Choice Roofing! The cost of that project was supported with FY 2015 gaming commission funds in the amount of \$2750. The County list also included replacement of equipment room doors costing nearly \$1000, the County will be helping with installing to save cost. Still on the County to-do list is to cover the wood siding on our 3 buildings with vinyl. We haven't got the estimate, but we know it is expensive unfortunately it has to be at the top of the priority list. This Fall it was a priority to finish grading and seeding the area that we have been wanting to move the t-ball field for 2 seasons, and that is done! We had to wait on the County to finish moving dirt (and more dirt all this time) and we finally were able to pay a landscaper to come in and finish off the project. The outfield fence will be moved into place as soon as it can be.

I hope that the preceding information helps give a better picture on why we have to do fundraising year around, why we ask our players and families support or participation during fundraisers. Our budget is a balancing act just like many businesses or families find themselves doing, we want to save enough for the "what if something happens" but make sure you have what you need to run things smoothly. We are always looking for ways to cut costs, save money and do things fiscally smarter. We maintain a QuickBooks accounting system, have an internal checks & balances system and submit yearly tax forms. Our league finances are not a secret and are discussed at every board meeting, I encourage anyone with questions to come to a meeting and ask. Don't sit and wonder, ask questions! If you have other questions like this feel free to direct them to me and I will answer in a similar manner, because you probably are not the only one wondering!

Jennifer Lowery, President HLL