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YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee  
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## **Miracle League of Milwaukee to Celebrate 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Spring Training Kick-Off Event**

**MILWAUKEE** – May 5, 2016 – The 2016 season of Miracle League of Milwaukee, will kick off with the fourth annual Spring Training event from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, May 7 at Miller Park. This marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of the Miracle League of Milwaukee, a charitable organization that provides children ages 4 to 19, who have physical or cognitive disabilities, an opportunity to play baseball as a team member in an organized league.

During the Miracle League Spring Training event, players and volunteers will have the opportunity to visit the Brewers bullpen for a throwing and catching tutorial. The event will continue in the SKYY Lounge where there will be food, drinks and entertainment.

Volunteers from the W Girls, Milwaukee School of Baseball, Marquette University and individual volunteers will assist the players during the throwing and catching tutorial.

“This year the Miracle League of Milwaukee celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing young people with special needs, in our community, the opportunity to participate in an organized baseball league and experience the feelings of competition and fun,” said Julie A. Tolan, president and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee. “This program has continued to grow and thrive because of all the wonderful individuals, groups, organizations and businesses who continually commit their valuable financial resources, time and talent to lend a hand to make a difference in a special child’s life, and for that, we are extremely grateful.”

The Miracle League Opening Ceremonies will take place on Saturday, June 11 at the Werner Family Foundation Field, located at the Northwest YMCA (formerly John C. Cudahy YMCA). Teams will play one game per week with games starting on June 14.

Pre-registration for the Miracle League Spring Training event is required. Parents can register their child for this event and for the 2016 season at [www.miracleleaguemilwaukee.org/playball](http://www.miracleleaguemilwaukee.org/playball). The cost to participate in the Miracle League Spring Training event is \$20/per athlete.

### **About Miracle League**

The Miracle League was founded in 1998 by the Rockdale Youth Baseball Association in Conyers, Georgia. There are now more than 200 local Miracle Leagues across the country providing the opportunity for all children to play organized baseball, regardless of ability. Miracle League baseball is played on a custom-designed field featuring a cushioned, rubberized, completely flat surface to prevent injuries and allow access for the visually impaired and those in wheelchairs.

The Miracle League of Milwaukee in partnership with the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee, joined the more than 200 national Miracle Leagues in 2010. With more than 200 participants, including players and volunteers, the program provides players with the experience of being part of a team, cultivating lifelong relationships and developing physical, social and cognitive abilities.

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