

# IT TAKES A MIRACLE

## *And We All Need To Help*

BY DIANE FEEN

If it takes a village to raise children, then it must take a miracle to help those who can't do it on their own.

Julia Kadel learned this firsthand from a TV show. She learned that children with disabilities could play baseball with their peers in a special league called The Miracle League.

And it moved her to act.

"I started the Delray Miracle League to give children with physical and mental disabilities the ability to achieve the same dream as their healthy peers - to play ball," said Board Certified Health Coach and Delray resident Kadel.

A lot has happened since the Kadel's (Jeff and Julia) started the league ten years ago. Back then they had two teams, 20 players and 20 volunteers. Now they have six teams, two coaches per team, 75 volunteers, Miracle Moms, a Miracle League Cheerleading Squad, a volunteer-run concession stand and a full-time Executive Director (Julia).

The Delray Parks and Recreation department was so inspired by the league (and the Kadels) that they renovated the field at Miller Park to include The Miracle League Field.

The Miracle field has a cushioned synthetic turf to help prevent injuries, wheelchair accessible dugouts, and a flat surface to eliminate any barriers for wheelchair bound or visually impaired players. The game also

has different rules: Every player gets to bat once in each inning, all base runners are safe, every player scores a run before the inning is over, each team and player wins every game and community children and volunteers serve as "buddies" to assist the players.

How great is that?

The answer is it's amazingly great. But with this huge undertaking comes a need for support from the community. That's why Julia and her husband Jeff (the co-founder) are hosting the Second Annual Miracle League of Palm Beach County **Dinner on the Diamond - Boundless Dreams** on February 25th.

The event will help the Miracle League of Palm Beach County purchase and install an unrestricted, boundless inclusive playground and garden at the Miracle League Field. Proceeds will also guarantee that the league will continue to be free for all participants.

This fun filled event, at the Miller Park Field, will include a cocktail hour, dinner, live music, dancing, craft beers, dessert, entertainment and a silent and live auction. Pastor Casey Cleveland will give the blessings and the Exceptional Theater Group (a special needs choir) will sing the National Anthem.

Delray folks and visitors will be lending their cheerful selves and ethereal spirits to make sure the evening is filled with smiles and laughter.

There are also sponsorship opportunities, donations and advertising opportunities for individuals and businesses.

"A MIRACLE takes place every time our special needs athletes, volunteers and fans gather at the Miracle League Baseball Field! We need your help with fundraising to ex-



JUSTIN

AVA (BUDDY) & JOSH (PLAYER)

pand the league, improve the field and keep it "FEE FREE" for all players!"

You can also donate gifts or services for the auction, underwrite the cost of an auction item, advertise in the auction booklet, become a table sponsor or attend the event.

Julia has been honored by the Bethesda Hospital Foundation as a Woman of Grace and the Kadel family has long supported those in need in the community and the world.

So get out and support this worthy cause. To whom much is given, much is expected.

The event is February 25th at 6:00 pm at the Field of Dreams at 1905 SW 4th Avenue, Delray Beach 33444.

"We hope you will join us and be part of what will be a fun and enthusiastic event."

The Miracle League is a non-profit (501) c (3) organization. To see the Miracle League and its mission check out the video: [www.MLPBC.com](http://www.MLPBC.com).

If you have questions (or need information) contact Julia at [coachkadel@aol.com](mailto:coachkadel@aol.com) or 561-414-4441.

Tickets can be purchased at: [www.MLPBC.com](http://www.MLPBC.com). "Every Child Deserves A Chance to Play Baseball."



KADEL FAMILY