

WHERE  
EVERYONE  
GETS TO  
PLAY!



THE  
**MIRACLE**  
LEAGUE  
OF NORTHERN INDIANA



**MISHAWAKA**  
PARKS & RECREATION  
FOUNDATION

# Miracle Field

at Normain Heights Park  
Capital Campaign



Eliza,  
South Bend

# Capital Campaign Committee

- Phil Blasko
- Barb Michalos
- Bill Pemberton
- Dick Pfeil
- Char & Dean Speicher
- Yvonne Teeter
- Barb & Reg Wagle



Cooper,  
Osceola



Zach,  
Mishawaka

The goal of the **Miracle Field at Normain Heights Capital Campaign** is to raise funds to develop the region's first public space that gives people of ALL abilities the chance to safely play organized baseball, enjoy fun and inclusive play areas, and create memories that will last a lifetime!



**Watch our video.  
It's pretty amazing!**

<https://youtu.be/rhVPD2Ht-9A>



# Our Proud History

The **Normain Heights Neighborhood**, a national historic district, highlights the city's focus on accessibility and opportunity for 70+ years.

A local nonprofit developed **300+** homes between 1947-1949 to provide affordable housing for WWII veterans and their families.

**Normain Heights Park** was built in the early 1960s to help deepen the connection among families in the neighborhood.

***No major park improvements have ever been made.***

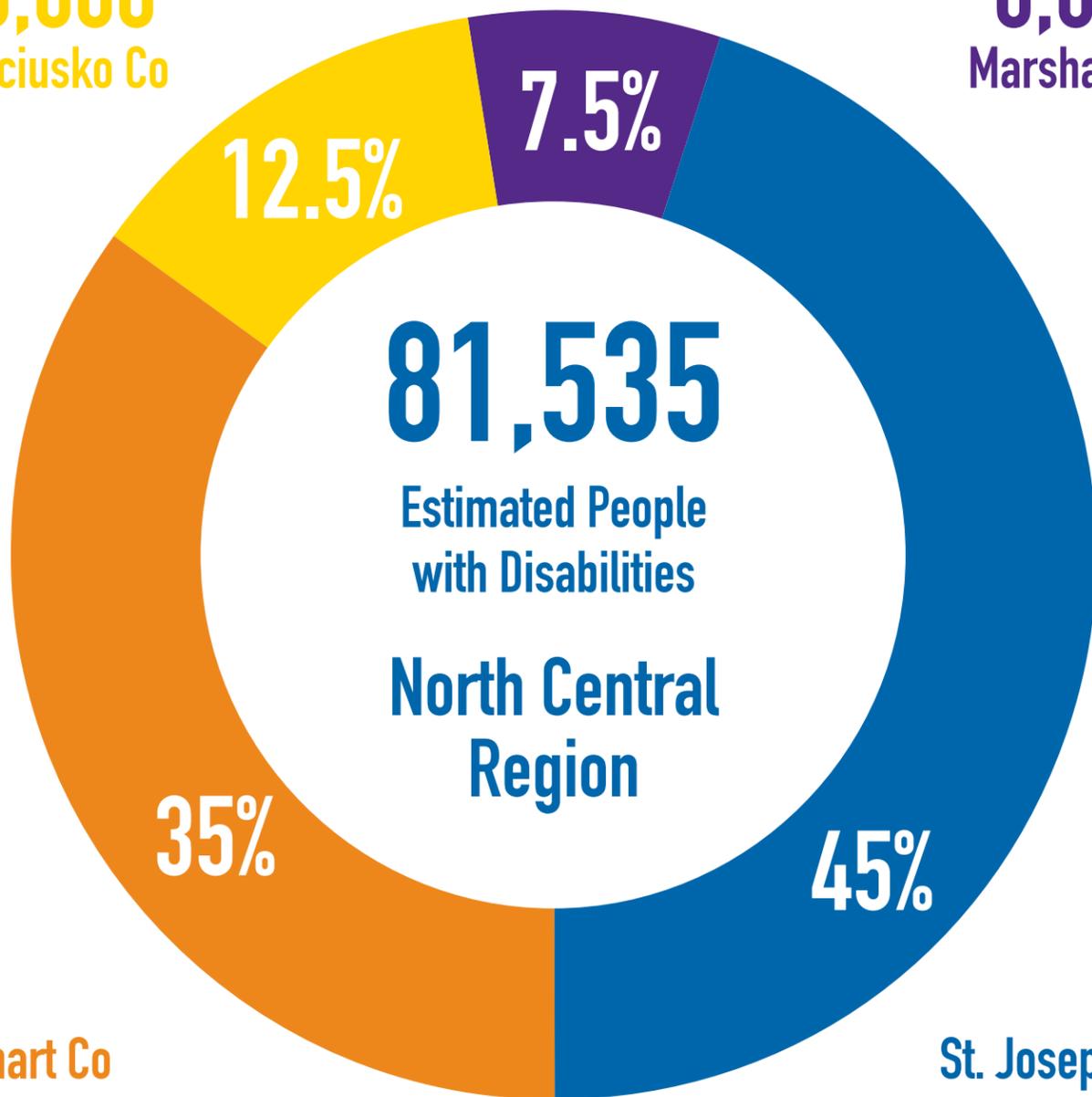


# Our Need

 **Estimated people with disabilities (ages 0 - 75+).**  
*Source: 2022 Census Estimates*

**10,000**  
 Kosciusko Co

**6,000**  
 Marshall Co



**Elkhart Co**  
**28,000**

**St. Joseph Co**  
**36,000**

 **10,000+ local students with disabilities. (ages 3 - 22)**  
*Source: Count Day, December 1, 2024*

**St. Joseph County: 5,799**

South Bend Community School Corp	<b>3,323</b>
Penn-Harris-Madison School Corp	<b>1,464</b>
School City of Mishawaka	<b>1,012</b>



**Elkhart County: 4,340**

Other Elkhart Co Schools	<b>2,251</b>
Elkhart Community Schools	<b>2,089</b>

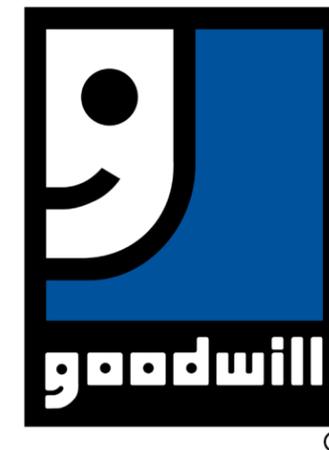
# Our Partners



Community partners will be the driving force behind the future success of the Miracle Field at Normain Heights Park. More than a dozen organizations across the North Central region have formally expressed their support and look forward to partnering with Mishawaka Parks & Recreation to better support the individuals they serve.

“Having a Miracle Field in our community that accommodates the unique needs of our community members and their families would allow them to come together to participate in a one-of-a-kind experience for those of all ages and abilities.”

*BARB MICHALOS, REGIONAL MANAGER - NORTH SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA*



# Our Future Park

## Phase One

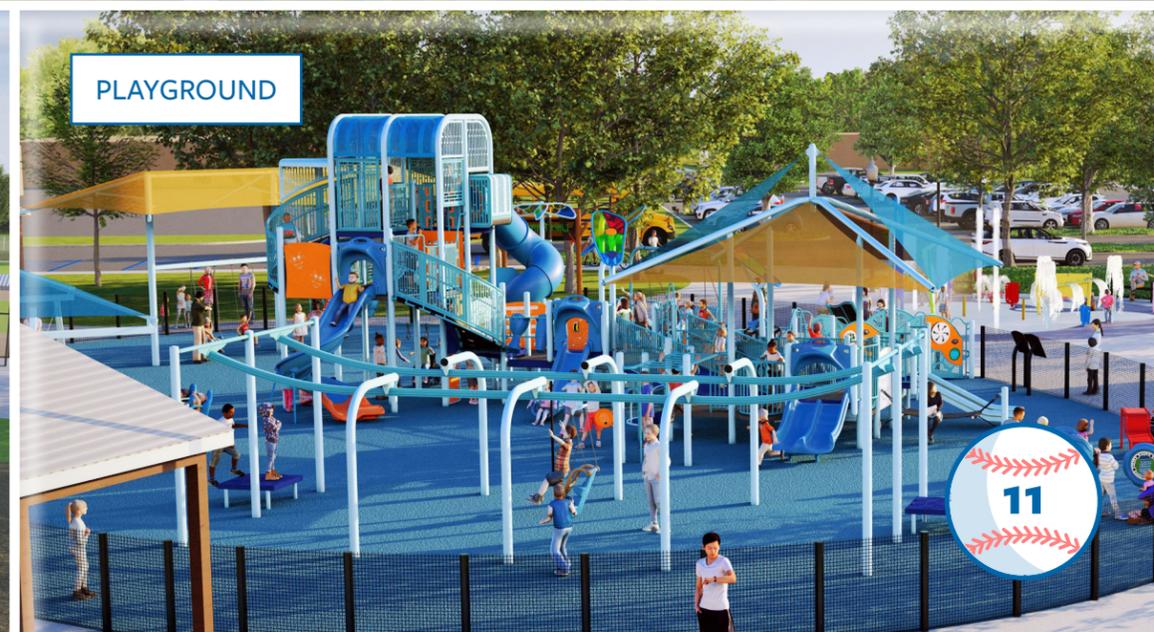
- Miracle Field  
(designed for multi-sport play)
- Grandstand seating
- New softball diamond
- New restrooms
- Wider entrance/exit roads
- Expanded parking lot

*Phase 1 Fundraising*  
**COMPLETE!**



## Phase Two

- Fully-inclusive playground & splash pad
- Sona Arch
- Pavilions
- Basketball court
- Storybook/Walking trail
- Other park enhancements



# Our Opportunity

The Miracle Field at Normain Heights Capital Campaign Committee is proud to lead a \$5.2 million fundraising effort to bring a first-of-its-kind facility to Northern Indiana. This ambitious project will create the area's first Miracle League Field—a specially designed field where people with disabilities can play organized baseball.

The project also includes developing fully-inclusive public play areas and making major park enhancements to ensure every visitor—regardless of age or ability—can experience the joy of accessible recreation in a welcoming environment.



We're inviting donors, community partners, and friends to join us in making this dream a reality and create a destination filled with home runs, high fives, and a place ***Where Everyone Gets to Play!***



Mishawaka Parks & Recreation is partnering with Miracle League Association, a national nonprofit organization that provides guidance to communities seeking to build a Miracle League Field.



## QUICK FACTS



- 350+ Miracle Leagues (US, Mexico, Australia, Puerto Rico & Canada)
- 100,000+ participants worldwide
- 25,000+ games played annually
- Closest Miracle League Fields
  - ▶ Westfield, IN
  - ▶ Schoolcraft, MI
- Promotes opportunities for people of ALL abilities to enjoy America's favorite pastime.

# Our Opportunity



## FULLY-INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND & SPLASH PAD

Uniquely designed playground includes a tower slide with stair-free access for wheelchair users.



## SONA ARCH

Sona Arch uses motion-sensing technology with audio-guided games to create an engaging and accessible play experience.

# Capital Campaign Cost



# Your Legacy



Pfeil Miracle Field

**We** aspire to build a destination where people of all ages and abilities across Northern Indiana can create unforgettable experiences and lifelong memories. We invite you to consider a gift—one that will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

To honor your generosity and commitment, we are pleased to offer a selection of naming opportunities.

# Your Impact

To Whom It May Concern

Hello, My name is Raven Degrathenreed and my family and I reside here in the South Bend/Mishawaka community. My husband and I have two children, Grayson and Shiloh, who we love so much. Our oldest, Grayson, was born visually impaired and with that he has overcome many challenges. Accessibility, in many aspects across the board, has been an issue in our community for children like Grayson. As a family we have been trying to connect and work with the right individuals in our community who are able to help promote change so that families like ours can enjoy day to day things easily and in a typical way. One thing that has been an issue is the accessibility to children's sports/activities.

Contrary to the vast accessibility of children's sports & activities his younger sister has been able to take ~~advantage~~ advantage of, Grayson has not been able to find any sports he could safely participate in. We have been able to sign his sister up for T-Ball, soccer, swim, gymnastics, dance, etc. since as young as 2 years old. However, it has been extremely difficult to seek out fun extracurriculars for Grayson to enjoy. He has been horseback riding for a bit over two years, which he thoroughly loves and gets excited about doing. This has been the one thing he can look forward to, but I believe there should be more options. Our children deserve more.

I am positive that not only my family



**“...I believe there should be more options.  
Our children deserve more.”**

*RAVEN DEGRATHENREED, MOTHER TO GRAYSON*





## A Message From Our Campaign Chair

Dear Friends,

I am honored to serve as the chair of the Miracle League at Normain Heights Park Campaign. I have participated in numerous projects, but this one is quite different because it is deeply personal.

While two of my children with disabilities have grown up and are very successful, their example gives me special understanding of this most positive project. I have spent most of my adult life learning about the challenges a person with disabilities faces each day.

Twelve years ago, their spirit of opportunity inspired me to learn more about a Miracle League Field. This space is more than just a specially designed field that allows people with a disability to safely play baseball. It is a program that makes people of all abilities feel as though they are a part of something. Being a member of a sports team, wearing a jersey, playing a position are all things that are not often available to an individual with a disability. This sense of belonging brings incredible excitement on game day and even the days leading up to it.

I am grateful city leaders, along with the Parks & Recreation Foundation, have chosen to partner with Miracle League to offer one of the most accessible and inclusive destinations across the North Central region. With the generosity of our community, we will not only do what is necessary, we will do what is best for people. Focusing on who we serve will ultimately result in creating more fulfilling lives and lasting memories for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Dick Pfeil". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dick Pfeil