

***Photo Attached**



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RELEASE

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Miracle League of Louisville Receives \$200,000 Grant From Delta Dental of Kentucky to Create Playground for Children of All Abilities

Playground part of fully-inclusive complex to bring kids together

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (February 21, 2018) – Miracle League of Louisville, a baseball league and complex for children with physical, cognitive, and/or emotional disabilities, has received a \$200,000 grant from Delta Dental of Kentucky to build a playground that will help bring children of abilities together in the Louisville community.

This fall, Miracle League will break ground on a fully-inclusive complex at Fern Creek Park, which will include a baseball field that is safe for players of all ages and abilities, the Delta Dental Miracle League playground, and an adjacent splash-pad.

“Every child deserves a chance to play baseball, and together, we are making this dream a reality for children in Louisville,” said Shawn Freibert, President of the Miracle League Louisville Board of Directors. “There are more than 20,000 children in our region with a disability that precludes them from playing baseball in a traditional league. Through grants from organizations like Delta Dental of Kentucky, we are able to give children an opportunity to enjoy the company of other kids in an environment that will allow them to flourish.”

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, Delta Dental of Kentucky was recognized by Miracle League of Louisville for their \$200,000 contribution during a VIP reception at Louisville Slugger Field, to make the Delta Dental Miracle League playground a reality for kids in the community.

“As a not-for-profit organization, philanthropy and supporting the communities we serve is a core part of who we are,” said J. Jude Thompson, Delta Dental of Kentucky CEO. “Through our

Making Smiles Happen initiative, we are committed to supporting programs and services in the community that enhance the quality of life in our citizens – including our children. We are thrilled to be able to partner with such a wonderful organization and fund this playground, which will help put smiles on the faces of so many kids in Louisville.”

In addition to the playground and splash-pad, the sports complex will include a baseball field that will feature a specially designed, rubberized surface designed to prevent injuries and accommodate wheelchairs, walkers and other devices. It also allows sufficient cushioning to aid in injury prevention if a player were to fall. The field and dugouts will be barrier-free and completely flat. Restrooms and concession areas will also be fully inclusive for all children with disabilities.

The first Miracle League field opened in April 2000 in Conyers, Georgia, and is now in 48 states, as well as Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico and Australia. There are more than 300 Miracle Leagues across the country. Miracle League of Louisville will be the first in Kentucky.

For more information on Miracle League of Louisville, visit <http://miracleleagueoflouisville.org/>.

For more information on Delta Dental of Kentucky and its Making Smiles Happen initiative, visit <https://www.deltadentalky.com/>.

To view renderings of this project, [click here](#).

Photo information: Brian Hart, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Delta Dental of Kentucky; Micaela Skura, Philanthropy & PR Administrator, Delta Dental of Kentucky.

About Miracle League

[The Miracle League of Louisville](#) will be a baseball league and playground complex for children and adults with physical, cognitive, and/or emotional disabilities. This one-of-a-kind, fully inclusive complex will allow children of all abilities to safely play baseball in an organized league with a buddy program to support special needs. The Miracle League field, playground and splash-pad will feature a specially designed, rubberized surface to prevent injuries and accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and other devices. The goal of the \$2 million project is to begin construction in fall 2018 with the first games being played on Louisville’s Miracle League Field in the spring 2019. Located at Fern Creek Park, the Miracle League will bring children, families and the community to the Miracle League for a common goal...to play together.

About Delta Dental of Kentucky

Delta Dental of Kentucky, founded in 1966, is the oldest and largest dental plan in Kentucky. It is a not-for-profit dental service corporation. In April 2006, the company moved into the new corporate headquarters in Louisville’s east end. Delta Dental of Kentucky—with its affiliates in Arkansas, Indiana, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee—is part of a family of companies that collectively is among the largest dental plan administrators in the nation. In 2016, the Enterprise paid out more than \$3.6 billion for dental care for 12.9 million enrollees. Delta Dental of Kentucky also is a member of the [Delta Dental Plans Association](#), America’s largest, most experienced dental benefits system. Together, the plans provide coverage to more than 56 million Americans and operate the nation’s largest network of participating dentists.

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