

Valley Christian Academy

Home of the Lions

TO: Baseball Tomorrow Fund
245 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10167

DATE: June 13, 2003

FROM: Brad Gunter, Jr., Athletic Director
Valley Christian Academy
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SUBJECT: Letter of Inquiry for a Baseball Tomorrow Fund Grant

PURPOSE OF OUR GRANT REQUEST – construct quality baseball and softball fields to increase field availability for over 1,400 boys and girls and to attract regional tournaments and playoff games

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| <p>⇒ increase the number of youth aged 5-18 participating</p> <p>⇒ expand spring, summer, and fall baseball and softball leagues</p> <p>⇒ meet community needs in Placer County - the fastest growing county in California at 5.8% annual growth</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construct a new softball field on land recently acquired that will be used by PONY League, girls softball, and school physical education programs.
<i>Project to include:</i> fencing, bring in dirt, seed, irrigation, dugouts and benches, cement, bleachers, field equipment and storage, backstop, and scoreboard.• Renovate and add improvements to a baseball field used by school and community PONY leagues.
<i>Project to include:</i> infield renovation, dugouts and benches, cement, bleachers and awning, field equipment and storage, irrigation improvements, foul poles, scoreboard and concessions. |
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THESE ARE THE PROBLEMS & ISSUES YOU CAN HELP SOLVE:

The projects identified above will help improve the quality of the existing school baseball and softball programs and expand community PONY baseball and girls softball.

Community need for recreation sites and programs

- **growing demand** for practice and game fields for girls softball and PONY League teams and tournaments
- **provide equal opportunity for youth and girls** to experience life through baseball related activities
- **Need for after school sports programs** that support academic success of children and reduce risky behavior.
- **the 0-17 population has increased 22%** since 1990 compared with 12% increase in County population as a whole in the same time period. However, the local area has not had any new sports parks constructed.
- **there is a lack of facilities in this immediate area** –park development is near the centers of the adjoining counties, not near the border where we are located. This need grows daily.

Immediate needs of the school

- improve a field so it is safe, true, and consistent
- provide a home field for the school girls softball team
- correct safety and security problems
- provide better seating conditions for the fans and supporters
- support an existing program that has demonstrated success in providing a quality experience for youth
- give equal opportunities for girls as well as boys

OUR ORGANIZATION: how to do wonders with a little land

Who we are:

- A non-profit, non-denominational school. The tax ID number is xx-xxxxxxx.
- K-12 with 360 students; CIF division V

Our focus:

- character development,
- academic excellence, and
- sports opportunities

Our goal:

to mold a well rounded individual who demonstrates academic excellence and displays spiritual and social maturity. For this reason, many of the league umpires send their children here!

Location:

Valley Christian Academy is located in Roseville CA near the border of Placer and Sacramento Counties. Just minutes from I-80 and a short drive from almost anywhere in the Sacramento area of over 1,300,000 people.

About the proposed project:

It is our mission to deal with the problem. We have the staff and the facilities to make the project work!

Our sports program:

- The combination of intramural and interscholastic sports programs has provided opportunities for past students to receive scholarships at the Division 1A College level.
- We are in our third year of building a prep baseball field to play our home games. This year we finished building a 12' outfield wall.
- We need a home field for our girls softball program. 1 player earned a girls college softball scholarship this year!
- 5 baseball players earned college scholarships in the last two years!
- Six time league baseball champions.
- This year's league softball champions.

VCA athletic director quoted in the local newspaper:

- "Our biggest focus is on the kid's character.
- "Sports is huge on helping you in life and getting ready to go out in the real world and that's our focus here.
- "A lot of these kids are getting the chance to play high school sports who might not have had the chance at other schools. I go home happy because of the impact you have on kids."

THE CHILDREN SERVED BY THE PROJECT: THOUSANDS COULD PLAY who never thought they would!

Improvements to the prep baseball field & construction of a new softball field would serve approximately 1,400 kids, age 5-18, for spring and summer leagues. Fall programs and clinics would impact even more!

- 360 VCA students from K – 12th will be able to play baseball / softball as well as all outdoor activities
- 220 players for Memorial Day PONY tournament age 13-14
- 120 children ages 13-18 in PONY baseball will be able to practice and play games
- 100 children 12 and under in PONY baseball will be able to practice and play games
- 150 prep baseball players will play spring games
- 60 players age 14-17 for summer league baseball
- 120 children age 5 – 18 will attend Clint Brill and Bob Oliver training camps in the spring
- 90 girls softball players will be able to practice and play games
- 150 high school girls players will play games

PERIOD OF TIME FOR WHICH FUNDS ARE REQUESTED

The optimal time for construction and improvements is January thru March 2004.

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR THE CONTACT PERSON

The contact person for this letter of intent is Brad Gunter, Jr. at vcacoach@surewest.net.

ESTIMATED OVERALL BUDGET AND AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED

In the next five years the playing fields you provide with this grant could touch the lives of over 15,000 children at a cost of \$5.20 per person served. We are striving for value with the best results and the least amount of money.

Project	Estimated cost	Amount of grant requested	Other cash and in-kind donations
New softball field construction	\$116,800	\$63,700	\$53,100
Baseball field improvements	\$53,825	\$23,525	\$30,300
Estimated Totals*	\$170,625	\$87,225	\$83,400

Our project budget is based on:

- donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations
- interviews with 5 BTF grant recipients with similar projects
- quotes and designs received for the projects from 4 different contractors
- donations from over 20 local businesses made in 2002-2003 averaging \$250 each
- Tour of Raley Field – winners of the “Sports Turf Manager of the Year” for 2002.

Our commitment to success is exhibited by staff and local contractor’s willingness to volunteer time to the project!

* based on detail cost sheets, contractor quotes, and \$10/hr value for volunteers

QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSONS TO BE ENGAGED IN THE PROJECT:

These local contractors and volunteers have relevant experience with similar projects. They also have relationships in our community that will help us succeed with the project.

Project Team member	Qualifications (demonstrating our competence and commitment)
Brad Gunter, Jr.	Project director, athletic director, vice-principal, head baseball coach, director of past and present construction projects
DRM Inc.	Dean Moore: onsite licensed contractor - cement, construction, carpentry
Jim Elmore	Professional contractor specializing in steel work and welding
Steve Avila, Howard Binkley	Professional painters
Maria Hill	VCA bookkeeper, accounting, budget and contract management
Park City Landscaping Inc.	Design and build local parks and recreation facilities
Todd Conroy	Citrus Heights PONY League president, VCA baseball coach
School and PONY players	Elbow grease (manual labor) under the direction of contractors
VCA Booster Club	Parents: fundraising, promotions, communications, and onsite equipment use
Brian Reiner	VCA student: the research / writing for this proposal/grant is his senior project
Jim Reiner	professional project manager

IN CLOSING...

We have agreed to provide a place for PONY and girls softball. We have the space. We have the players. We have the commitment and support of the community, the school, and the leagues. What we don’t have are the funds for construction, improvements, and special training. I’m sure there is more than one way to solve the problem. I’d be more than happy to discuss approaches and ideas.

Your grant funding will help provide year round baseball and softball for youth. The Baseball Tomorrow Fund grant will serve as a catalyst for the construction and improvements.

Upon your approval of this letter of inquiry, I’d like to submit a grant application. I am willing to provide any further documentation or information.

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