

SHIRLEY POVICH FIELD



BIG TRAIN

BASEBALL

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1999**

KIDS DESERVE BETTER FIELDS

Recognizing the value of sports in the development of young people, Big Train founders John Ourisman and Bruce Adams established the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club in 1998 with a mission to improve the condition of youth baseball and softball fields in Montgomery County and the District of Columbia. Building a ballpark for a summer college baseball team was the first step. The concept was like Paul Newman making salad dressing and using the profits for good causes. Making baseball seemed like more fun. With dozens of community partners led by Miller & Long, Sandy Spring Builders, and Hopkins & Porter, strong corporate support, and hundreds of donations from local baseball fans, we made nearly \$1.5 million of improvements to the 90' diamond in Cabin John Regional Park. To keep alive Washington's baseball past, we named the team after baseball's greatest pitcher, Walter "Big Train" Johnson, and the field after the legendary *Washington Post* sports writer Shirley Povich. Nearly one-quarter million people have enjoyed Big Train baseball at Povich Field since opening night on June 4, 1999.



FIELDS OF DREAMS

Povich Field was just the beginning. Over the next 14 years, the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club contributed nearly \$600,000 to improve youth fields from Bethesda to Anacostia, Rockville to Takoma Park, and Germantown to Wheaton. In 2002, we played a lead role in building a miniature Povich Field for youth players in Cabin John Regional Park. One young BCC Baseball player seeing the field for the first time pretty much summed up the feelings of all his peers: "SW...E...E...E...T!"

In 2003, Sharon Robinson joined Mayor Anthony Williams at Kimball Elementary School in Anacostia to dedicate Jackie Robinson Field in honor of her dad. This was just the first of several abandoned fields we turned into community jewels in the District of Columbia to support the Fields of Dreams youth after-school baseball and character education program.

BCC BASEBALL



To ensure that Big Train baseball will continue to flourish for generations to come, the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club turned the Big Train baseball program over to the well regarded BCC Baseball youth organization in 2012. Established in 1993, BCC Baseball serves 3,000 youth players each year with organized leagues for players of all skill levels from ages 6 to 18. BCC Baseball currently maintains 22 ballfields in Montgomery County. During its two decades of service to the community, BCC Baseball has invested more than \$3 million improving school and park fields.

BCC Baseball

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www.bccbaseball.com

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY NONPROFITS



Montgomery County is the special place it is today because of the wonderful nonprofit organizations that support our neighbors in need and add to our quality of life. Each season, the Big Train showcases about forty local nonprofits. Each Nonprofit of the Night is given 100 free tickets to give to volunteers or sell as a fundraiser, is provided a table to display materials, and has a spokesperson give a short pitch about the organization before throwing out a first ball during pre-game ceremonies. The Nonprofit of the Night program has been supported by grants from the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation since 2009. In addition, the Big Train has donated Family Season Passes to local schools and community groups since 1999 to help them with their annual fundraising.

HELPING KIDS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Since 2001, Big Train baseball has been collecting used sneakers and baseball equipment for kids in the Dominican Republic. The original request came from Los Angeles Dodger Manny Mota and his wife Margarita whose Campo de Sueños serves kids in one of Santo Domingo's poorest neighborhoods.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Each year, Big Train volunteers participate in Montgomery County's two major days of service. Each January, Homer the Big Train mascot entertains volunteers at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service event. On Community Service Day each October, Big Train volunteers help clean up Povich Field by taking down and cleaning banners, raking leaves, and preparing the flower beds for the winter. Community service is a requirement for high school graduation in Maryland, and hundreds of student volunteers have logged more than 28,000 student service learning hours working at Povich Field. For many of our community's youth, volunteering at Povich Field has been their first community service experience.



HOMER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Big Train mascots Homer and Bunt make scores of appearances at neighborhood events throughout Montgomery County each year. Big Train players have joined the mascots at local libraries to promote summer reading and at community events like Miracle League. To invite Homer to your community event, please email him at homer@bigtrain.org.

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Since 2010, the Montgomery County teams in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League have competed in an Annual Feed the Hungry Challenge. Each team sends players to two area Giant Food stores. The winning team is the one that collects the most food for the Manna Food Center, Montgomery County's food bank. In the first four years of the contest, the Ripken League ballplayers collected 17,682 pounds of food, nearly nine tons of food for our neighbors in need.

EXCELLENCE ON & OFF THE FIELD



In addition to exemplary service to our community, Big Train baseball has been first rate on the field. When you watch a Big Train game in June or July, you are watching top quality college players from across the country, many of whom will soon be playing professional baseball. Managers Derek Hacopian (1999-2004) and Sal Colangelo (since 2005) have led the Big Train to league championships in 2004, 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2011 as well as a second place finish at the 2000 NABF College World Series. Perfect Game USA declared the Bethesda Big Train (36-9) the nation's #1 summer college baseball team for 2011.

Playing with wooden bats in the summer Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League (www.calripenleague.org) helps prepare players for careers in professional baseball. Forty percent of the players who have played for the Big Train since 1999 have gone on to play

professional baseball. Nine Big Train alumni have made it to the major leagues. And there are more on the way. Big Train 2012 MVP Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State) was a first round draft pick of the San Diego Padres in 2013 and signed for nearly \$2.7 million.

EU SERVICES & TEXT DESIGN

Since the 1999 inaugural season of Big Train baseball, two local firms, EU Services (euservices.com) and Text Design (txtdesign.com), have combined to make sure that Big Train fans have the best souvenir programs and printed materials in all of summer college baseball. Our thanks to these generous firms for all they have done over the years and for producing this brochure. Thanks also to Lisa Kammerman of Kammerman Portraits for being the official Big Train photographer and for allowing us to reprint the photo on the cover of this brochure. To order Big Train photos, go to bigtrainphotos.com.

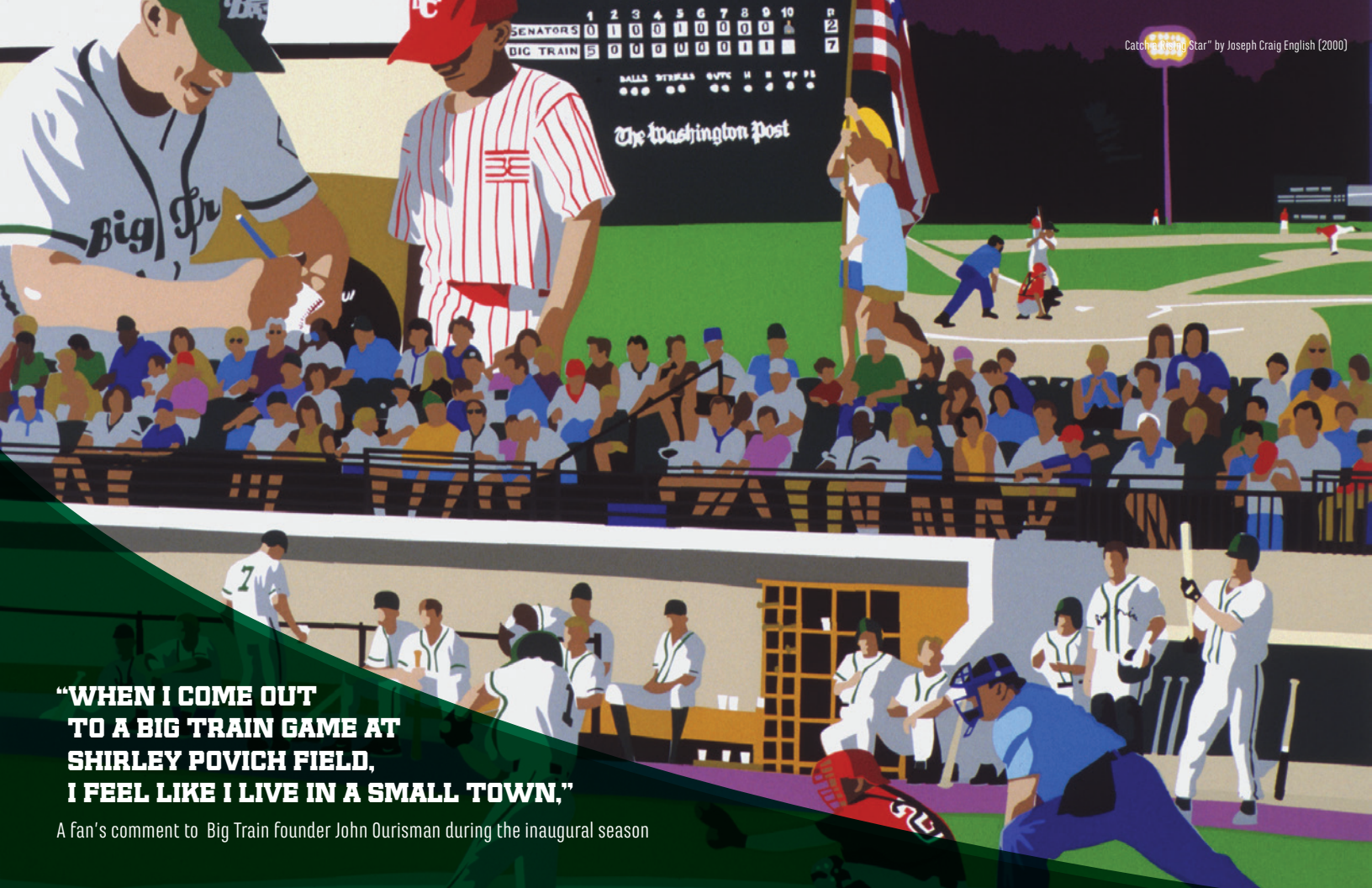
EVERY CHILD DESERVES A GREAT SUMMER

Watching great baseball players up close is a special treat afforded fans of the Big Train that few get to experience at a major league ballpark. Having birthday and team parties before the game adds to the fun. Your friends will enjoy sharing your birthday with the Big Train players. To sign up for a pre-game picnic, email picnics@bigtrain.org.



Perhaps the biggest thrill for our local kids is the opportunity of being coached during the day by the stars they watch at night. The Big Train players serve as instructors at the Big Train & BCC Baseball Summer Camp. All skill levels are served by the camps for kids ages 5 to 12. Camp sessions are held from mid-June to mid-August. To register, log onto www.bigtrain.org/summer camp or call 301-365-1076 or email camp@bigtrain.org.





**"WHEN I COME OUT
TO A BIG TRAIN GAME AT
SHIRLEY POVICH FIELD,
I FEEL LIKE I LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN,"**

A fan's comment to Big Train founder John Ourisman during the inaugural season

FAMILY FUN

AT AFFORDABLE PRICES
RIGHT NEAR HOME



**BIG TRAIN BASEBALL
AT SHIRLEY POVICH FIELD IS
"THE ULTIMATE SMALL TOWN FANTASY...
BASEBALL IN ITS PUREST FORM,"**

— Washington Post columnist Marc Fisher

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WWW.BIGTRAIN.ORG

