



Bethesda Community Base Ball Club

Big Train Baseball at Shirley Povich Field

Small town charm, Big League talent

Founder & President

Bruce Adams

October 2022

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Pure joy. That's the vibe I felt all summer from our Big Train fans as they left our games and I stood in the arch at Povich Field thanking them for coming. One right after the other. Young and old. Long time fans and newcomers. Nearly everyone had a big smile.

I have been around long enough and have been lucky enough to have been involved with a lot of worthy activities, but helping to create the small town charm and big league talent that is Big Train baseball at Povich Field makes me most proud.

With your support, Big Train baseball had another successful year both on and off the field in 2022:

- 🌀 **Four Big Train alumni made their major league debuts**, bringing our total to 21.
- 🌀 We tied the Alexandria Aces for the best regular season record in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League at **26-10**.
- 🌀 Nick Del Prado was named **Ripken League Pitcher of the Year**.
- 🌀 Our inaugural **"Pint" Isreal Juneteenth Classic** honored the tradition of Montgomery County's Black sandlots.
- 🌀 Eighty Big Train players, staff, and fans volunteered at seven nonprofits as part of our first annual **Roberto Clemente Community Service Day**.
- 🌀 Again this season, we hosted a different community nonprofit each game night, providing 25 free tickets and dinners for their **Community Heroes**.

Halloween will mark my 75th birthday. And 2022 is the 25th year I have been working as a volunteer to help bring you Big Train baseball at Povich Field. Those are big numbers, and I am proud of them.

I need your help to make sure that Big Train baseball continues to be a positive force for good in our community and that Shirley Povich Field continues to be a jewel of a ballpark long into the future.

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Bruce Adams 🌀 **Founder & President**

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Here's how you can help us meet these goals:

- ⊗ Our annual **Big Train Base Ball & Holiday Auction** has been the vehicle for raising the funds we are able to dedicate to our community service initiatives. From 1999 through 2011, we raised \$600,000 to improve youth baseball and softball fields from Germantown to Anacostia. Since retaking stewardship in 2020, we have developed new community building initiatives and look to do more.

By sponsoring and attending our in-person event in the Davis Family Picnic Pavilion at Povich Field on Sunday afternoon **November 13 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.**, you will enable us to broaden our community service initiatives. I am hoping this event will net \$50,000 so we can continue to strengthen our efforts to reach out to support our diverse communities. That would be the best birthday present I could imagine. And, yes, there will be cake and ice cream!

- ⊗ It has been a dream of mine for years to create a fund to ensure the long term quality of Povich Field. And now we have that opportunity.

As you may know, Shirley's son David died in August. The family generously suggested that, in lieu of flowers, contributions in David's memory go to support Povich Field and the Povich Center at the University of Maryland. Inspired by the Povich family's initiative, we created the fund I have dreamed of — the **David Povich Improvement Fund for Shirley Povich Field**. If you agree with me that it is important that we maintain the quality of Povich Field for our children and our grandchildren, I hope you will consider contributing to our new fund. I am pleased to report that in the first month, we received \$50,000 toward our goal of ending the year with \$100,000 in the fund. This kind of support will enable us to make significant improvements each and every year.

I have enclosed a donation form. Payment may be made by check payable to "Bethesda Community Base Ball Club." If you prefer to donate online, please use the QR code below or use the DONATE button at www.bigtrain.org. I have also enclosed the Fall 2022 *Big Train Bulletin* to bring you up to date on some of the most exciting Big Train activities in 2022.

I am grateful to you for your support of Big Train baseball at Povich Field and our community service initiatives. With your support, we are looking forward to another fabulous season in 2023 on the field and in the community.

Stay well. Roll Train!



Bruce Adams
Founder & President, Bethesda Community Base Ball Club
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