

# Some Little Leagues at Risk (cont.)

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\$425,000 from the State and \$100,000 from the City for general upkeep and construction. However, much of those dollars may not be seen for years.

Although leagues may assess a registration fee that is used to purchase uniforms and equipment, maintain fields, etc., the fee cannot be a prerequisite for playing. The Little League philosophy does not permit any eligible candidate to be turned away. Emphasizing the spirit of Little League, rules require that every child plays in every game. Alameda values inclusivity. Little League personnel

are also composed only of volunteers, including the elected board members and officers, and each of the managers, coaches, umpires, field workers, etc.

Donations and sponsorships have been difficult to come by due to the financial impact of COVID-19 and rising costs for companies generally. Even so, many people and organizations have come to the league's aid. In 2021, thieves broke into the clubhouse and stole equipment. What they did not take, they broke. After a board member reported the incident to the media, the league received checks

from individuals and in-kind support from companies. (Thank you to all who helped including Summit Fire and Security, TLC Plumbing, General Mills, and Accustripe.)

Alameda Little League has served the North Valley and its families since 1988, but our ability to do so for another 35 years will be severely limited without public awareness and support in the form of donations, volunteers, and gifts of services, such as landscaping and construction. We are not alone. Other area leagues need help, too.

Despite our challenges, Little Leagues play on for the children of our communities. The website of Little League's world headquarters states that "it's up to us to write the latest installment in an epic series (spanning 84 years), every time we play." With your support, our next chapter will be written about the community barn-raising that drove renewal and recovery of America's National Pastime for children of all backgrounds and skill levels in Albuquerque.

- Ted Aragon, Alameda Little League board member.



THEY GUARANTEED  
I WOULD DOUBLE MY  
MONEY.

NOW MY MONEY IS  
GONE  
AND SO ARE THEY.

IT COULD'VE BEEN AVOIDED.  
THE RED FLAGS WERE THERE.

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