



MATHEWSON MCCARTHY BASEBALL
A whole lot more than its seams™



For immediate release, Tuesday, March 20th, 2018

(Amherst, New York) The Russell J. Salvatore Foundation (RJSF) will once again positively impact the Western New York Community as it has made a generous six-figure, multi-year financial commitment to Mathewson McCarthy Baseball (MMB). The RJSF will provide funds in exchange for permanent naming rights to the primary MMB Facility, located at 1995 Wehrle Drive in Williamsville, New York. The new name of the park is 'Russell J. Salvatore Baseball Park' 'Home to the Mathewson McCarthy Baseball League' and a formal event is being planned this spring to commemorate Mr. Salvatore and the RJSF support of MMB.

The RJSF has provided millions of dollars in charitable contributions to support many businesses and organizations throughout the Western New York Region including and not limited to: The [Russell J. Salvatore](#) Boys & Girls Club of Depew-Lancaster; the [Russell J. Salvatore](#) Hospitality House at Kevin Guest House; the [Russell J. Salvatore](#) Orthopaedic Unit at ECMC; and the [Russell J. Salvatore](#) Demonstration Kitchen at Buffalo State College as well as the [Russell J. Salvatore](#) School of Hospitality & Business at Trocaire College.

Mathewson McCarthy Baseball, established in 1957 as 'The Joe McCarthy Little League' after the Hall of Fame great 'Mars' C. Joe McCarthy, is a chartered baseball league with two main divisions: Cal Ripken (ages 4 through 12) and Babe Ruth (ages 13 through 16). MMB supports hundreds of children and families in a service area that encompasses the North side of Wehrle Drive East to Transit Road (also includes some of the area in Clarence, East of Transit Road where the Williamsville School District extends), West to Niagara Falls Boulevard and North all the way up to the Niagara County line. MMB encourages all children in that area to come and join the league. "We strive to provide a family friendly setting where everyone works to make it a great place for those who are playing house league or tournament baseball at MMB", says Tom Unger, MMB President.

The RJSF charitable donations will support the launch of new and exciting capital projects that will benefit MMB players: beginning with the construction of a new batting cage building in the spring of 2018 which is expected to be ready by Opening Day this May. Unger states, "The RJSF has now given us the financial wherewithal to significantly invest in Mr. Salvatore's namesake park as well as the development of MMB Players in a way that wasn't possible before." The installation of LED lighting that would illuminate diamonds to support night games is just one of the exciting projects being considered at MMB. Don Morris, Larry Newberry, Dave Franknecht and Al Solanik have been an engaged Board of Commissioners from Cal Ripken & Babe Ruth at the District, NYS and Mid-Atlantic levels who are always examining ways that baseball can be made more appealing to children. Improvements of this type would make the 'Russell J. Salvatore Baseball Park' a flagship facility in the region and help for more children to live the dream of playing baseball 'under the lights'.

Matt Smith, MMB Secretary (and President of Buffalo Back and Neck Physical Therapy, P.C.) understands the great responsibility associated with this endeavor; "The RJSF commitment to high quality projects is something that our MMB Board is acutely aware of and we will work tirelessly to reflect that standard at the ballpark." As a detail-oriented perfectionist; Matt has channeled his energy and proactive thinking to inspire his board colleagues to apply collective human capital to make the most of what The RJSF is providing to MMB. To that end, MMB has engaged CannonDesign: a Global Architecture, Engineering and Design Firm having an office in Buffalo, to assist with the planning and delivery of future projects that are of high value to MMB players and families. "The RJSF has made an overwhelming commitment to our league that will further establish Mr. Salvatore as one of the most charitable individuals that our community has ever known", says Treasurer Patrick Greeley. "It's incumbent upon the MMB Board to responsibly plan and execute for the betterment of our league, its players, coaches and families".

“Like any volunteer organization, we rely on so many people to do their part and make things work.”, says Unger who continues, “On behalf of the Mathewson McCarthy Board of Directors, our players, coaches, families and the Town of Amherst (TOA) Supervisor, Brian J. Kulpa, TOA Council Member Jacqueline Berger, The TOA Highway Department and the TOA Youth & Recreation Department, I would like to thank Mr. Salvatore, Mark Jerge (RJSF Trustee) and the entire Russell J. Salvatore Foundation for their generosity. MMB is excited about the capital improvement and operational support opportunities that will become a reality as a result of The RJSF philanthropy. As a league focused on the development our young players, our Board is humbled by The RJSF inclusion of an annual scholarship award (to be voted on each year from 2018 through 2030) in the amount of \$1500, to a deserving High School student who is a member at MMB.”

Current members of the MMB Board of Directors should be recognized for their incredible support and efforts during this process and are as follows: John Benns, John Bland, Neil Block, Kevin Clauser, Greg Croll, Chris Delregno, John Frank, Chuck Huber, Dave Johnson, Bill Nosky, Chad Rung, Matt Smith and Tim Wilks. This MMB Board of Directors is grateful to so many other past and present volunteers who have contributed countless hours and effort to assist in making MMB the league that it is today.

Unger concludes, “Just as The RJSF has established a legacy for years to come with the ***‘Russell J. Salvatore Baseball Park’ ‘Home to Mathewson McCarthy Baseball League’***; so too will the legacy of ***‘The MMB Three’ - Patrick Greeley, Sam Pantano and Paul Vallone***, be established from this point forward in recognition of their outstanding work to deliver this literal ‘game changing’ opportunity for MMB.” (Greeley and Vallone also currently serve on the MMB Board)

‘Play Ball!!!’

Mr. Russell J. Salvatore

Russell’s Steaks, Chops and More Restaurant is located inside of Salvatore’s Grand Hotel at 6675 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. Adorning the approach from the Transit Road entrance to the hotel is Russell Salvatore’s Patriots and Heroes Park, designed by Don Parrino. This park honors America’s fallen patriots and heroes with 15 tons worth of white granite statues, 400 flowers and plants, 100 trees and an enormous American Flag that people can observe while reflecting on their years of service to our Nation as well as loved ones who served.

For more information about the Russell J. Salvatore Foundation; please visit:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/russell-j-salvatore-foundation/>

Mathewson McCarthy Baseball

For more information about Mathewson McCarthy Baseball and to register for the 2018 Spring House Baseball Season; please visit: www.mmb4me.org

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Town of Amherst

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