



### **Project Description - Tempe Rio Salado Little League**

Since 1981, the Tempe Rio Salado Little League (TRSLL) has served the youth and families in the North Tempe area. Over the years, our Little League has been instrumental in encouraging many young people to enjoy, learn, understand and love the game of baseball.

TRSLL uses two fields rented from the City of Tempe to offer practices and games. The main field utilized is Matt Mantei Field at Clark Park. This field is one-tenth of a mile from the Tempe Elementary School District's (TESD) Holdemann Elementary which is one of only two schools at maximum student capacity. More importantly, Holdemann has the highest free and reduced lunch rate (F&R) of all TESS schools at 94%. Sadly, there is not one student in our league from this school. It is likely the \$125 registration fee is prohibitive for most of these families. In addition, there are two other high-need schools within two miles of Matt Mantei Field (Thew and Laird elementary schools, both with F&R rates of 88%) in which only a handful of students enroll in the league.

In order to reach families with low socio-economic status, but yet have a high desire to learn to play baseball, the TRSLL Board is requesting funds within this proposal to enhance the league by offering scholarships to families in those schools with the highest need within our boundaries. Clearly, if practices and games are close by, potential players are more likely to participate and continue for the entire season.

Based on the number of new players TRSLL is targeting to enhance our league and based on the number of students in our boundaries who would qualify for scholarships, we are requesting funds in the amount of \$3,500.00 which would cover 50 scholarships at \$70/each. We have expanded our team offerings to include two additional t-ball teams and two junior level teams, increasing our reach to include 13 and 14 year olds.

Baseball is good for kids' health and good for everyone's soul.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Benoit".

Christopher J. Benoit  
President, TRSLL Board of Directors