

The Overcomer Baseball Field will feature accessible sized dugouts, bathrooms, benches, large shades, and specialized rubber flooring that will allow children who depend on adaptive equipment for their mobility the ability to participate with their peers.

For the last seven years, Kendyl and Friends Foundation has hosted The Overcomer Baseball League, a non-profit program designed and modified to allow ALL disabled and/or special needs children the ability to participate in a team sport. Trained volunteers assist players throughout the game while parents get to sit in the stands, cheer for their children, while bonding with other families who share a common understanding of raising children with disabilities. Interpreters are also provided for deaf and hard of hearing players.

We face more and more challenges to offer an inclusive environment as our league continues to grow. These challenges, while out of our control, routinely result in a player(s) inability to participate. Over two-thirds of the participants in our Overcomer League require the use of wheelchairs, gait trainers, kid walks, crutches, braces, or other adaptable equipment to be mobile. There have been countless times where it has rained prior to a game, leaving the field impossible for adaptable equipment to access. Oftentimes, damage to the field even occurs on days where the field is completely dry because they are not designed for heavy, accessible mobility equipment. Inaccessible and imperfect field conditions are also unsafe and risk injuries.

The majority of our players are more susceptible to overheating and sun poisoning due to their daily medications. Oftentimes, we have players sitting in the dugout with cool towels while the game continues because there is no shade for them to regulate their body temperature. Having properly shaded areas can make the field up to 20 degrees cooler, can block up to 96% of harmful UV rays, reduce the risk of sunburns, and allow our league to be more inclusive!

While this baseball field will be located in the heart of Boyle County, Kentucky, special needs children from counties across Kentucky will be served. Since the Overcomer Baseball league began, over 300 individuals from 19 different counties have been served. As these numbers continue to grow every season, we need to do everything we can to provide a safe, inclusive area to continue serving our special needs community.

Each component of the proposed inclusive baseball field is specifically designed to not only accommodate special needs children and their mobility equipment, it will also allow for children to continue to strengthen their mobility skills in a fun, safe, and friendly environment.