



# Newsletter

SPRING 2019



Ian and his coach Harold kicked off their new mentoring relationship last September, after spending a summer together on the Coach Pitch Marlins.

***"He was the first kid who called me "coach" when I stepped on to the field to serve with RBI Austin."***

Meet Harold and Ian — These two kicked off their new mentoring relationship last September, after spending a summer together on the Coach Pitch Marlins. Harold shares a little bit about Ian, his mentee, and why he made the commitment to stay involved in Ian's life after the summer season ended.

*Ian is really passionate. I mean, he is the kid who is all over it in celebrating when our team does something good.*

*Similarly, when he makes a mistake, he is really hard on himself.*

*I thought that committing to staying in his life beyond the summer season was something that could provide some consistency for Ian. And hopefully, over time, I may be able to help him develop*

*a little more composure and give some guidance as to how to navigate his feelings as he grows.*

*Whether it develops into a baseball career or something*

*completely different, I hope that in our interactions he develops in his character.*

*I pray that from our interactions and relationships, he will get a clearer perspective on how to handle moments where feelings seem to take control. And in those moments, he'll realize the freedom that comes in pausing and reflecting on "how would Jesus respond here?"*

*I hope he has that kind of a response to things. Turning challenging things into learning opportunities.*

*When Ian looks back on this season of life, I hope that I am a role model to him and set an example for him, and that in turn helps him be more successful in whatever he ends up pursuing — on or off the field.*

As our baseball and softball programs have been growing, we want to increase opportunities for coaches and players to build deep, consistent relationships even in the off season. Because we believe that positive, enduring relationships change the game.

Thank you for being part of the work that the Lord is doing in the hearts of inner-city youth and their coaches. Thank you for investing in relationships and believing that the Lord can use them to bring more people to relationship with himself.

**Any other coaches out there remember the first kid who called you "coach"? Any players out there remember the coach who made an impact in your life well beyond the ball field?**

# YOU'VE MADE THIS POSSIBLE!

In the world of sports, we know that a lot of work happens behind-the-scenes in order for the game to be played.

*You are part of this behind-the-scenes, hard work that makes life-changing relationships possible for our 1,312 RBI Austin kids.*

You are sacrificing resources and graciously bridging the gap for our RBI Austin kids throughout the year with your financial contribution.

Your amazing generosity during our year-end giving and at our annual benefit *Now at Bat* has set RBI Austin up for success in 2019.

We are so grateful for you!

Because of your support, inner-city Austin youth will once again have the opportunity to be part of the life-giving, Christian-based, relational support structure of the great games of baseball and softball.

*Thank you!*

**\$94,371**

**GIVEN DURING  
YEAR-END  
GIVING**

**\$663,000**

**GIVEN DURING  
NOW AT BAT**

*Your support HERE is making THESE great things possible!*

**844**  
**NOW AT BAT  
ATTENDEES**

**#1**

## INCREASED LONGEVITY OF RELATIONSHIPS

**Because of your support,** we are able to continue providing programs for our 1,312 kids. This is HUGE since we believe that positive, consistent relationships in a child's life are so powerful. This means more coaches and kids are returning, spending time together, and are being given the opportunity for their relationship to deepen.

**#2**

## SOFTBALL PROGRAM EXPANSION

**Because of your support,** our softball program has taken huge strides in growing and deepening these past couple of years. We launched our first softball player development academy, and 2019 will be the first year when we are able to offer a league for 18U softball!

**#3**

## INCREASED VOLUNTEER INVESTMENT

There's no doubt about it, we are a volunteer-led organization. Without our 518 volunteers, we wouldn't be able to serve our 1,312 RBI Austin kids. **Because of your support,** we are able to increase our investment in volunteers through things like strategic coach and mentor trainings, program boards and committees, and volunteer socials.

