



Newsletter

SUMMER 2020

THANK YOU FOR SHOWING UP DURING A SEASON LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

The "game" changed this year, and because of your support, we were able to change with it. Needs changed for our kids and families, and **you showed up**. Circumstances changed for our programs, and **you showed up**.

You made it possible for our RBI Austin kids and families to be uniquely and specifically supported during this unprecedented time. For kids from low-income communities, the disparity in access to team sports has never been greater than during COVID-19.

While our mission has stayed the same, we had to adjust our strategies, and you were right there adjusting with us. In fact, we simply could not have pivoted so effectively without your support.

Here is what you made possible, both on and off the field:

OFF THE FIELD

\$22,150 RAISED

through RBI Austin's Rain Delay Fund to support our kids & families with COVID-19 needs.

**277
KIDS**

**86
FAMILIES**

Because of your support, 86 families with 277 kids received support from our benevolence fund through grocery store gift cards and laptops.



ON THE FIELD

\$21,880 RAISED

through donors like you to fund our modified summer league.

61 TEAMS

384 GAMES + PRACTICES

394 BOTTLES OF HAND SANITIZER

4,000 FACE MASKS

30 NON-TOUCH THERMOMETERS

Because of your support, 61 teams were able to safely play 384 games and practices this summer.

QUOTES FROM THE STANDS

This summer was a short, yet meaningful one. We were able to connect players and coaches, hold practices and games, cultivate existing relationships among teams, and establish some new ones too!

Even though the season was cut short due to the City of Austin field closures, it still meant the world to the kids and their families to have the opportunity to get out on the ball field for a few weeks. Here are a few quotes from our RBI Austin parents:

“ *This short season was a great outlet for my teen and very, very important. Being able to socialize in a safe space and following health safety guidelines meant the world to myself and my family. - Angie*

“ *It was very meaningful to play this summer and helped the kids a ton. I began to think my kids were getting depressed because of COVID-19, but interacting again safely with their peers brought tons of smiles to their faces. I loved seeing them have fun on the field. - Lori*

“ *It was a real gift to my son to be able to get out and play again with COVID-19 restricting most everything else for him. Thank you so much for giving this a try and giving us at least a few weeks of baseball!*

The level of coaching, players and competition was fantastic and a great challenge for my son. I also enjoyed the level of organization, the friendly staff and the opportunity to play ball. - Kurt

“ *This season gave our child some time of normalcy. So thankful for it. Wish it could have gone on longer. Well done during the unknown. So glad you tried to push forward. - Glen*

“ *I truly felt like the kids needed something that would bring them joy in their life, and this was a perfect way to achieve that feeling. Being able to see kids and their parents enjoy a little bit of time outdoors was great. Seeing my son out there with a huge smile on his face and putting in some hard work was lovely to see. - Rocio*

RBI AUSTIN ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

As Aidan Martinez looked onto the field and watched the baseball game, he smiled. This time was different; he wasn't a player like he has been since he was seven years old. Today, he was working for RBI Austin. This new role gave him new perspective on the joy the game of baseball brings.

Martinez had incredible success as a player with RBI Austin, helping lead the team to a 2018 Southwest Regional Tournament victory and a spot in the MLB RBI World Series in Minneapolis. Despite all of the great memories and success on the field, that was not what has stuck with him the most throughout his time playing with the organization. There was an atmosphere of care and compassion that made RBI Austin unique, exemplified in RBI Austin's Senior Director of Programs and Martinez's coach Mark Price.

"Mark was the head coach that you knew was going to get onto you, but he loved you and cared for you. He was always there and always had your back," Martinez said. "Mark and the other coaching staff really cared for us. They made us feel like they wanted to be around us and that gave us that team feeling."

Martinez is currently interning with RBI Austin, and he sees the value in helping younger kids experience the same life-changing love and care.



Aidan Martinez, RBI Austin alum, played a vital role in creating virtual content to keep kids engaged and active when in-person activities were canceled.

"My favorite part of the internship has been getting to hang out with the kids and see how much fun they have playing the game," Martinez said. "For me, I had my time at RBI and I enjoyed it, and now I can give that same experience to younger kids. I've always talked about leaving a place better than you found it, and that's what I'm trying to do with RBI Austin. It's just fun being able to give back."