

Letter from the President

Dear Readers:

We at the Baseball Assistance Team are pleased to bring you this newsletter so that you our readers can stay abreast with the changes taking place and update you with the work of B.A.T. within the “baseball family”. Also, we want to thank you for supporting the B.A.T. organization in all its endeavors.

Since 1986, B.A.T. has helped over 2,300 individuals and families, providing over \$18 million in benefits through its grant program. Without your support B.A.T. could not continue its outstanding work of reaching out to people in times of need.

On January 27, 2009, B.A.T. will be holding its 20th annual “Going to Bat for B.A.T.” fundraising dinner at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel. This is one of B.A.T.’s most important fundraising events of the year. Inside this issue are additional details and information regarding the dinner.

Hopefully you will enjoy this issue of the B.A.T. newsletter and continue to support the Baseball Assistance Team in its endeavors to help those of the “baseball family” in need.

Sincerely,

Ted Sizemore
President and CEO

B.A.T.’s HELPS FORMER PLAYERS GET BACK ON THEIR FEET

How difficult must it be to wake up everyday and know there are certain limitations on things you are able to do because you are missing a leg? To know that you cannot provide for yourself or your family because you won’t be able to stand for a long period of time. This is a question that two former baseball players will no longer have to ask themselves. This past August, B.A.T. along with Advanced Prosthetics and Orthotics of America helped these two men receive prosthetic legs. It was a trip that changed their lives and one that they will never forget.

Jacinto Camacho, a former pitcher who had 8 years in the Minor Leagues lost his leg from the knee down in 2004 due to Type Two Diabetes. After a long period of low blood circulation in his leg the doctors came to the conclusion that his best option was to have his leg removed. Before losing his leg he made artifacts of wood and metal in a shop located in the back of his house, which provided him with a small income to provide for him and his wife. After losing his leg, he was restricted to the amount of time he could stand and therefore it was much harder to keep working in his shop. Jacinto was also involved in inspiring young baseball players. He would teach the children baseball techniques and practice the sport with them, but due to the loss of his leg had to

discontinue his lessons. In order to try to make the situation slightly better for himself, he made his own artificial leg because he did not have the money for one.

Angel Cantres, another ex-baseball player who played in the Minors for 11 years lost his leg in a work related accident in 2001. Cantres was working for a construction company on the 10th floor when he lost his balance but was fortunate to grab onto a steel beam saving him from the fall. While holding on the steel beam it tipped over and fell on his right leg which pinned him down. Emergency services were called but it took about two hours for help to arrive. By then Angel's co-workers had removed the beam from his leg. The care that was needed at the hospital was not provided on a timely basis even though he was in a great deal of pain. After two days, he had an operation and screws were inserted in his leg to improve his mobility. Unfortunately due to the length of time that Angel was waiting to be helped the damage had already been done and the major vein in his leg had been damaged. Shortly thereafter his leg was amputated due to the failed attention of the hospital staff.

James Martin, the Executive Director of the Baseball Assistance Team along with Benny Ayala and Virginia Carbello of MLBPA had met these two men on a visit to Puerto Rico and knew that this was something that B.A.T. could potentially help with. The Grant Committee of the Baseball Assistance Team reviewed their applications, and determined that something should be done to help Angel and Jacinto. During the second week of August, both men flew from their home towns in Puerto Rico to Florida accompanied by Benny Ayala, B.A.T.'s liaison to the Puerto Rican Community for a week to begin the process of receiving their artificial leg. On Monday of their trip they had their first appointment for their leg casting. On Tuesday, it was their "fit" day when they were fitted for their prosthetic leg. This day would be the first time in a very long time that these men would be walking on their new limb. The final day was left for adjustments if needed and on this day they would leave the clinic walking.

On the way back to their hometowns in Puerto Rico, Benny recalls how Jacinto who came to Florida with a wheel chair walked off the plane to greet his family and completely forgot about his wheel chair. "Times like these are when I know that the work that I do with B.A.T. really makes my life worthwhile," Benny said.

Both men are thrilled and appreciate the amazing gift that God has granted them of being able to walk again. Angel and Jacinto spoke of how they are now able to walk to the doctor and anywhere else they need to go. "I am like a small boy with a brand new toy. Having this leg has brought my family and I much joy. I am so grateful and happy for what has been done for me", said Angel Cantres.

Through the help of B.A.T., the lives of these two men have been changed. They now have better mobility and the process has helped alleviate a great strain they bared for years. With B.A.T., Advanced Prosthetics and Orthotics of America these two men came from their hometowns in wheel chairs and returned to their homes walking on two legs. An experience that they and B.A.T. will never forget.

Twentieth Annual “Going to Bat for B.A.T.” Dinner

One of B.A.T.’s largest fundraisers is the annual “Going to Bat for B.A.T.” dinner held at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel each January.

Every year, baseball fans have the opportunity to meet and dine with over 125 current and former players. These attendees include such greats as Hall of Famers Luis Aparicio, Orlando Cepeda, Whitey Ford, Bob Gibson, Juan Marichal, Joe Morgan, Jim Palmer, Robin Roberts and Earl Weaver to name a few. It is an opportunity to see their baseball cards come to life.

Each year, the dinner has a different theme and honors the great players and teams of America’s favorite pastime. Each theme is unique and brings out the interest of baseball fans who understand the great work B.A.T. has done for the “baseball family.” This year’s theme is no different as B.A.T. plans to celebrate the memories of Yankee Stadium and Shea Stadium.

The awards presented at the dinner are not numerous but very important to those honored. Over the years B.A.T. has recognized those for their work off the field rather than for their home runs, wins or batting average, etc. One of these awards is the Bart Giamatti Award which is presented to a current day player for his sportsmanship off the field. Luis Gonzalez, the deserving recipient of the Bart Giamatti Award in 2009 has best exemplified the compassion demonstrated by the late commissioner with his involvement in many charitable organizations benefitting children and education, clinics and hospitals as well as the unhealthy and B.A.T.

The Big B.A.T. / Frank Slocum Award is given annually to an individual or a group of individuals who’s exemplary service to the B.A.T. organization has helped provide dignity and self-esteem to members of the “baseball family.” Ozzie Smith, George Brett, Vince Coleman and Bret Saberhagen are the deserving recipients of the Big B.A.T. / Frank Slocum Award in 2009 and have been a part of numerous charitable endeavors which includes their longtime commitment to the B.A.T. organization.

An all around player is an exception on the field, but also in the community which is why B.A.T. acknowledges those players that are active in the community with the Bart Giamatti and the Big B.A.T. / Frank Slocum Awards.

Considered one of the most coveted tickets in New York City, the “Going to Bat for B.A.T.” dinner has raised over \$7.5 million since its inaugural banquet to benefit members of the “baseball family” who are most in need. The next dinner will take place on January 27, 2009 at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel.

Thank you letters:

I wish this thank you could be in person to let you know how very much we appreciate your caring generosity and standing with us during this time. It makes such a difference at all levels – financially and emotionally to have that tremendous support.

This is a letter of appreciation and thanks. Thank you for paying my hospital bill, thank you for paying my rent. Thank you for making my life a little bit easier. Thank you for being there for all of us when we can't do it for ourselves. It is my hope and prayers that someday and in some way I will be able to help someone else as you have helped me. My sincere gratitude and prayer go with you always.

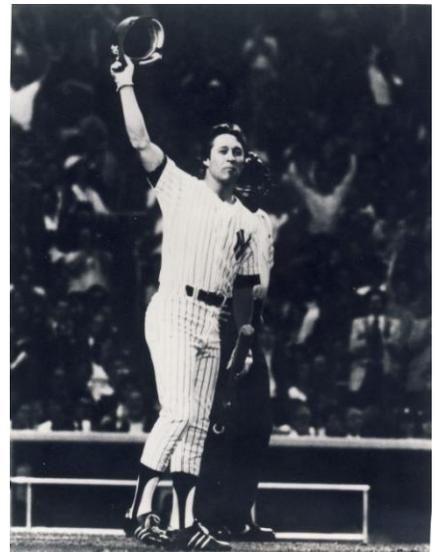
I don't think I have ever been more elated in my life. I thought my 15 years of playing professional baseball was all in vain but B.A.T. came through like the pros and real champions they are. Wish I knew how to express my appreciation but I'm not very good at writing. Just want to say thanks again.

This note is long overdue. I want to thank you all again for your help to me. It has made my life so much better – I don't have to worry about what will become of me. I do hope that you can continue to do this or find someone in baseball to help. I'm sorry that this has happened to me. I never thought I would last this long. I am cancer free 18 years on September 17th. Thank you again. I really appreciate what you are doing for me.

Miracle may seem like a strong word but if you've ever been faced with the uncertainty of your health, and even your job you would know that the assistance of B.A.T. is truly a miracle to those who receive its help.

BAT loses a Great Friend and Human Being

Baseball and the Baseball Assistance Team lost a great friend with the passing of Bobby Murcer earlier this year from brain cancer at the age of 62. Not many men can be called legends both on and off the field. Murcer was not a legend along the likes of many Yankee Hall of Famers but he was as well known as most of them. He was one of the most liked and respected people associated with the Yankees. Bobby played 17 years in the Major Leagues, 13 of those years with the New York Yankees. He was an executive with the New York Yankees for a short period before permanently moving to the broadcast booth for more than two decades. Murcer was a man with a great heart and full of compassion.



During his entire battle with a malignant brain tumor, Murcer was an optimist who provided current Yankee players with encouragement no matter what the circumstances were. His compassion for others and strong will to do the right thing started years ago and was exemplified as a member of the BAT Board of Directors.

Bobby joined the B.A.T. Board in 2001, was elected chairman of the Baseball Assistance Team in 2002 and served in that capacity until his passing. One of his accomplishments as a Board member took place in 2001. After a lengthy discussion at the BAT Board Meeting on how to best approach the present day major leaguers and get them involved in the organization, a recommendation by Murcer was agreed upon. The plan was to visit the thirty Major League Spring Training sites and update the current day players regarding BAT's goal and objectives. The plan was discussed with MLBPA and MLB executives and an agreement was reached for BAT to visit the clubs. In the spring of 2001, presentations were made by BAT representatives to lay the ground work for continued yearly meetings with the players during spring training. The purpose was to ask for their financial support and to be BAT's eyes and ears. The results from those meetings between 2003-2008 generated \$5.5 million in revenue for BAT.

Although Bobby died at the young age of 62 his inspirations will live through those he left behind and serve as a perfect example of how things should be done. He will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.