

PLAY THE GAME

Willis Sports Association, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Play **BALL**

Play **WELL**

Play **NOW**

Play **TOGETHER**

Willis Sports Association, Inc. is

VERO BEACH



SAME TEAM • SAME MISSION

Willis Sports Association, Inc.

VERO BEACH RBI

As we reach the 5-year benchmark of service to the Treasure Coast, it is amazing to see the growth and impact that has occurred in such a short period of time. What began as a team of 12 boys who never played baseball, has now grown to 365 children and youth as young as 2 years to 18 years of age playing baseball and excelling in the classroom. **Willis Sports Association, Inc. (WSA)**, was built on the belief that giving more underprivileged youth the opportunity to PLAY, LEARN, and GROW using the tool of baseball, would provide children and youth better exposure to recognize their potential and actualize their dreams. Endorsed in 2016 by Major League Baseball as a Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities League (**RBI**), WSA is **Vero Beach RBI** with a united mission.

We are honored to be of service to families throughout the Treasure Coast. With this 2019 annual report, you will see that our “**Whole Child**” approach of continuous engagement in academic enrichment and fundamental skill development is a recipe of success. The impact of our after-school **Fun at Bat Program** at Sebastian River Elementary and Treasure Coast Elementary has an 85% success rate. The summer was an explosion of new programming, exposure, and service learning. If you are a new friend to WSA, you will see how effectively we leverage the power of teams to bring out the best in our kids. Through our programs on the field and in the classroom, we are committed to unlocking the potential of each and every child so they can go on to lead happy, healthy and productive lives.

At **Vero Beach RBI**, we believe the socioeconomic gap of children receiving the proper physical, social, emotional and academic development skills are issues we must continue to help our communities overcome. With your support, we will continue to build a future where our next generations of girls and boys will prosper through teamwork, guidance, and unwavering commitment. **Thank you** for your continued belief in our mission.

James L. Willis

Executive Director, Vero Beach RBI





**RICH
HISTORY
STRONG
LEGACY**

In 1919, Historic Dodgertown was renamed Jackie Robinson Training Complex

MISSION

"To broaden opportunities available to disadvantage youth through baseball and softball, affording players better exposure and scholarships for educational endeavors."

CORE VALUES

SELF-RESPECT

Behaving with confidence, honor and dignity for oneself and others.

CHARACTER

Making smart decisions and doing what is right when no one is looking.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Willingness to learn and excel in the classroom.

DIVERSITY

Accepting and valuing individual differences.

PLAY TOGETHER

TODDLER BASEBALL PROGRAM



IT'S FUN!

**VERO BEACH RBI IS DEVOTED TO
BUILDING TEAM WORK**

Our programs are designed to bring children together, teaching them the necessary social skills and behaviors that are required for life.



"What we learn becomes a part of who we are"
-Unknown author



fun at bat



AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER EXPOSURE, ENRICHMENT, AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Designed as an academic and physical education program, **Fun At Bat**, focuses on giving children a healthy environment to stimulate academic growth and success, while strengthening positive character traits such as honesty, teamwork and responsibility. During the 2019 school year, **184** children participated in the Fun at Bat Program at Sebastian River Elementary School and Treasure Coast Elementary School.

"I wish we did this every day and every week because I love the Fun at Bat program." - Shamon Thomas

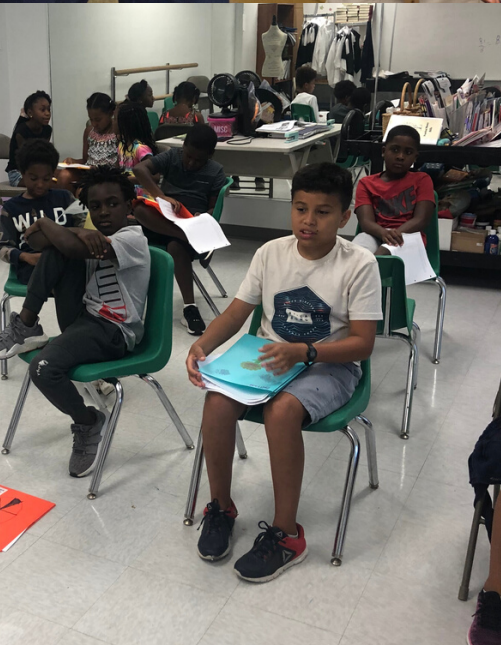
The skills and educational coaching received, through the Fun At Bat program, resulted in an **85% increase** of improved behaviors and school attendance of underprivileged elementary students. The opportunity to strengthen their ability to read, understand math, participate in hands-on learning, all while being physically active made a difference.

2019 marked the beginning of the Fun at Bat Summer Program. For **5-weeks**, children rotated through indoor classroom instruction including reading and STEM activities as well as outside play.

"What I really likes about Fun at Bat is that we learn about the history, like Jackie Robinson and others. Regardless, I love the Fun at Bat program and Staff. Thank you for teaching me!" - Daniel Eiceron

Through our summer program, players have the opportunity to increase their success inside the classroom and learn how to respectfully interact with their peers and teachers.

59% of Fun at Bat Summer Program participants improved in the content areas of math and reading during the summer months; curving summer learning lost for **70** summer participants.



PLAY WELL

87%

Of program participants receive fewer than five unexcused absences from school and **100%** of participants was not processed by the juvenile justice system.



96%

Of RBI participants performed on grade level and/or showed positive gains in their knowledge and self-awareness of positive behaviors and decisions measured over the course of the academic school year.

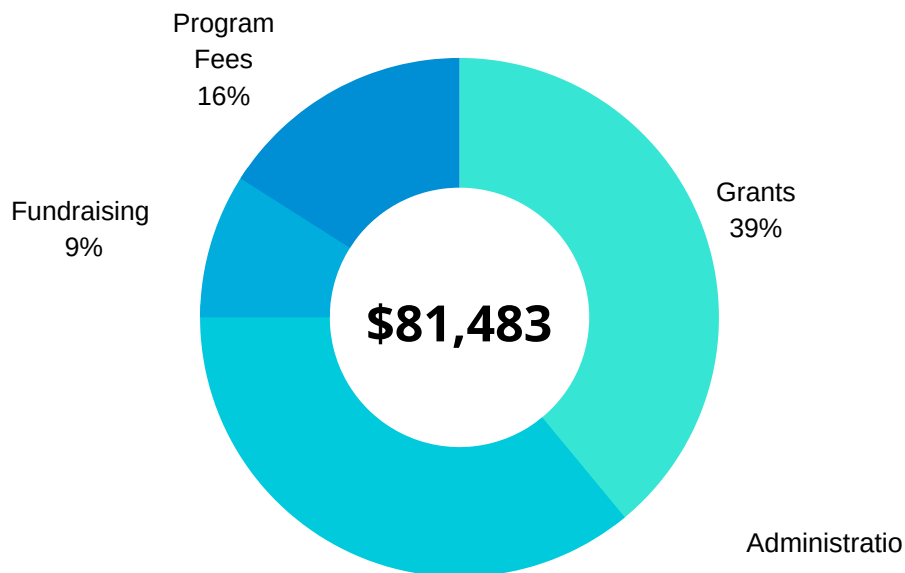
Empowering Success

on the field, inside the classroom, and throughout the community



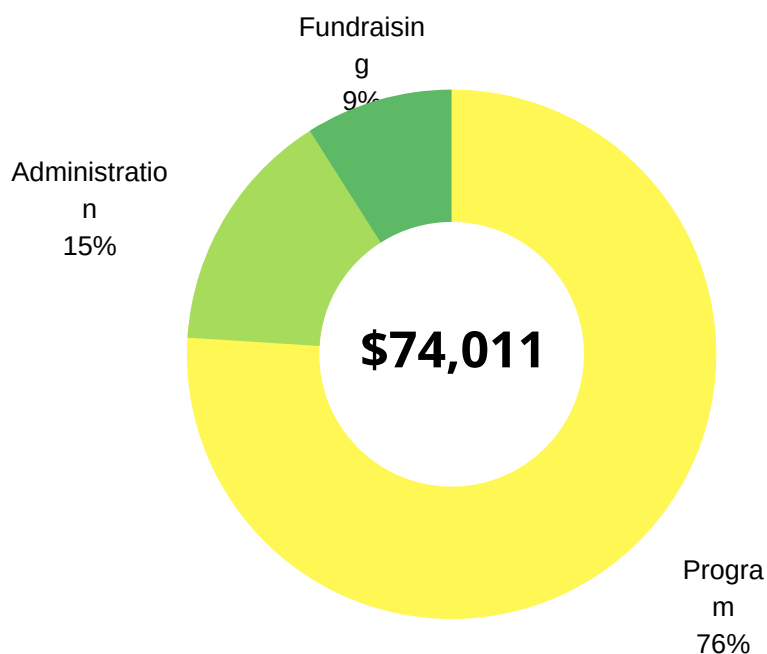
2019 Financials

Resourceful
Strategic
Efficient



- Grants
- General Contributions
- Fundraising
- Program Fees

76% of
expenses go
directly to
youth programs



- Program
- Administrative
- Fundraising

"Help others achieve
their dreams and you
will achieve yours."

Les Brown

Thank You

It's been an awesome year!



School District of Indian River County, Indian River State College, SunUp Advantage, and a host of community citizens, volunteers, and parents made this year a great success.

Together, we can do so much more. You too can empower our young people to recognize their potential and realize their dreams.

SPONSOR your own team and provide equipment, coaching and uniforms for the entire season. You also get your name printed on all the jerseys!

ATTEND a game. You'll always have fun at our games. Best of all, they all highlight and showcase our amazing youth.

VOLUNTEER we're always looking for awesome classroom and field coaches to work directly with our kids and make a lasting impact on their lives.

LIKE us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram to stay up to date on our work.

For more ways to get involved, visit our website or call us at:
www.wsarbi.org or 772.370.5858.

STEP UP TO THE PLATE





Willis Sports Association, Inc. - Vero Beach RBI

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