

General Hospital

911 Emergency Dr. Philadelphia, PA

LOCAL HOSPITAL SAYS, 'PLAY BALL!'

CEO Hopes the New Team Will be a Home Run

General Hospital knows it's no secret that little league baseball has been a popular activity for young kids and their families almost as long as the game itself has been around. However, because the small suburban Philadelphia community of Amity, PA has never had its own team, kids that wanted play little league had to join the Moreland Bears in neighboring Morelandtown. That is all about to change! This week, *General Hospital* announced that it has decided to sponsor a new Little League program for community children called the Little Surgeons.

The Little Surgeons baseball team will be the town's first ever little league club and will be free of cost for all children who join. The Little Surgeons' coaching staff will be headed by *General Hospital* CEO, Sam Franklin. When asked what inspired the hospital to organize the new Little League team, Franklin said, "Programs like Little League teach children the importance of teamwork, hard work and good sportsmanship - all rewarding and necessary characteristics that help children become successful adults." Franklin continued by asserting that, "if it weren't for activities like Little League and the football club in the town where he grew up, he might not have been as successful as he is" adding, "not only will it teach those necessary components for developmental success, it will help get kids off the couch, away from the video games, and back to living an active lifestyle. Something that is missing in so many kids' lives these days"

Community parents have also expressed their excitement about the new team, also. Stanley and Helen Roper, who have two boys ages 7 and 9 said, "They believe all children should have

the opportunity to play sports - especially America's favorite game, baseball - the greatest game on Earth," Other parents said that having their own Little League team is long overdue. Parents aren't the only people who are excited. When asked how he felt about having a Little League team in his town, 9-year-old Ralph Furley said that, "it's awesome!" and that "he couldn't wait to see more of his friends from the fourth grade playing baseball, too."

Franklin said that he believes it is the responsibility of all businesses to give back to their neighbors - to make the communities they serve a better place for everyone. "We have been approached by so many other businesses that want to help", Franklin said. "Thanks to their generous contributions, uniforms and equipment, such as bats and gloves will also be provided free of charge." He acknowledged that by diverting the costs of what can be an expensive activity away from parents, maybe more children will get involved. "Programs like this shaped who I am today. I just want to see other children have that same opportunity." League registration begins this February and Franklin assures parents that they can expect zero out-of-pocket expenses to sign their kids up to join the Little Surgeons baseball team.