



ALFOND YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bambino Buddy Ball Program Opening Day Set for July 16 at Purnell-Wrigley Field

Waterville, ME - July 14, 2025 - The Alfond Youth & Community Center (AYCC) is thrilled to announce the Opening Day of its newest inclusive sport initiative, **Bambino Buddy Ball**, taking place **Wednesday, July 16 at 5:00 pm at Purnell-Wrigley Field, 47 Mathews Avenue in Waterville.**

Bambino Buddy Ball is a division of youth baseball designed specifically for **children with physical or intellectual challenges**, providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone to enjoy America's favorite pastime. Each player is partnered with a "buddy" to assist and encourage them on the field, promoting confidence, friendship, and fun.

"We're excited to launch Buddy Ball this summer at Purnell-Wrigley Field. For the first time, we're expanding our Unified Champions program to serve youth with intellectual and physical disabilities, because we believe athletics should be possible for anyone of any age, ability, or financial situation. This isn't just a new program, it's a new chapter in making inclusion a reality, one game at a time," says AYCC Athletic Director, Beth LaFountain.

The July 16 opening is **free and open to the public**, with opportunities to register on-site, meet the buddies and coaches, and celebrate the start of a meaningful new tradition in Waterville.

In addition to Bambino Buddy Ball, the AYCC also offers **Unified Champions Club** programming - inclusive sports, fitness, and social activities for adults with intellectual disabilities, helping build confidence, community, and healthy lifestyles. Many of our Unified members will be stepping into leadership roles as partners in Bambino Buddy Ball, a meaningful new way for them to connect, support, and lead.



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Volunteers and players are still welcome to sign up! Registration is completely free! To register or learn more, visit our website or call 207-873-0684.

<https://www.clubaycc.org/programs/unified-champion-club/>

Join us in the stands as we cheer on our incredible players and build a community where every child and every adult can play!

Learn More at: <https://www.clubaycc.org/programs/unified-champion-club/>

For media inquiries, interview requests, or additional information, please contact:

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About the Alfond Youth & Community Center

The Alfond Youth & Community Center (AYCC) is the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that operates the nation's only merged Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCA. Located in Central Maine, the dedicated staff of the 85,000-square-foot facility serves over 9,000 members from throughout the 50 communities of the Greater Waterville area.

A true youth and community center, the AYCC boasts childcare and afterschool programs, wellness, fitness, athletics, aquatics, martial arts, and summer camps.

www.clubaycc.org

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