

RBI
Leadership

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The Final Season

In this season of gratitude, I want to thank you for your support over the past twelve years. This is my final season with RBI as RBI will be winding down over the next twelve months. But we still have some work to do, and I am once again calling on your generous spirit. **Read on!**

Certainly, we all can be proud of this unique partnership among school, parents and Chesterfield County and its achievements, which include the beautiful building and field with lights, that will be our tangible legacy.

It took over twelve years, but the building construction loan assumed by RBI has been fully paid to the bank that lent the funds for this project and other facility capital needs. Frankly, it is amazing that this repayment was done in such a short period of time. At its inception, the debt was more than many home mortgages in the local area.

If you are new to the details about how RBI came about, please read **Searching for Breadcrumbs**, available on Amazon. RBI's efforts will be known by all who were and are involved at the county and school level, as a tremendous accomplishment. Although the main beneficiary of the RBI effort is the JRHS baseball program, over the years RBI has also accomplished the following:

1. In April 2017 the Virginia State Police Association recognized James River High School leadership and RBI for the First Responder Festival held on September 11, 2016 – which raised more than \$5,000 for the Association's Foundation that helps the families of state police officers or other first responders killed or injured in the line of duty. Jennifer Coleman, Principal at James River High School and the committee that created the event: Lisa Germano, Bryan Hannum, Jesse Powell, Barry Moore and Lisa Schaffner were each given a plaque of recognition at the Association's Annual Meeting in Williamsburg.
2. Student leadership mentoring opportunities. JRHS students learned how to run concession, silent auctions, golf tournaments and casino nights. All these events provided real life opportunities for students to learn cash management best practices, what is revenue vs net proceeds, pricing for profit, risk assessment and marketing. The events also created the critical fundraising.
3. Collaboration with Meadowbrook High School to create events to provide revenue for their baseball field enhancement, including plant sales jointly with RBI, Christmas tree sales following the sale at James River with any leftover trees or wreaths.
4. More than 1200 pounds of food were collected via special events. This food went to the JRHS Food bank as well as community food banks.
5. Diamond in the Rough events for baseball players that are overlooked by college coaches - to give these young men an opportunity to get a "look" and hopefully scholarships.
6. RBI sponsored the Potter Tour – finding host families for a touring group of baseball players who are given an opportunity to travel over many states spreading the word of leadership and service. The Potter players, in turn, cleaned up the baseball fields.
7. Partnered with the Virginia Cardinals baseball team as well as Potter Tour players to help landscape Elk Hill Farm.
8. First Halloween event – RBI assisted with the printing and marketing for the JRHS Leadership event.
9. Offered lunch to golfers made by JRHS Intellectual Disabilities Program under Randy Early, which provided funds for their program to enhance student opportunities.
10. Providing food cooked at baseball concession by students for the JRHS PTSA Color Run: students created the menu of hot food from the grill at the concession stand.

This is just a short list of many events that RBI has been a part of, if not sponsored, since our inception. The mission for RBI has, from the beginning, included creating opportunities and funds for the school, its community and its needs.

We have provided our thanks over the years in this newsletter to many who have given time and talent to make all this happen. **Searching for Breadcrumbs** has a more exhaustive list, but those that have been sustaining contributors: John Titus, former principal at JRHS, Amanda Voelker, current JRHS principal, Jordan Berryhill, who stepped in at a critical time for RBI as its president, Bill Bray who donated funds to make the locker room what it is today for the baseball program and who has championed the RBI mission since its inception, Craig Schwartz who provided the momentum to make this happen from the very beginning and who has also given me hope when things seemed to go awry, Ann Hillsman who worked responsible but creative banking magic, Lisa Schaffner who until her passing, was my most fun partner and creative brainstormer for many events. Finally, Shane Smith, attorney with Whiteford, Taylor who was a legal angel on my shoulder from the building design through construction.

Gratitude for all these people who loaned me their time and RBI their talents: I am forever grateful.

Many have called this endeavor the Field of Dreams and looking back, perhaps it is. But its greatest legacy is not the building, but the idea that a dream shared can become reality. It began with a coach, sharing his dream with parents and a few of those parents made it happen with successful fundraising events.

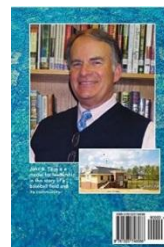
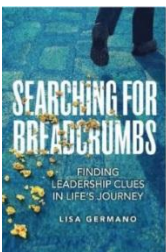
I am proud of all these achievements but with the payment of the debt to Atlantic Union Bank, the next legacy is up to the leadership of James River High School and whether the baseball coaches can tell the story of the field to others and thus create enthusiasm for JRHS Boosters to continue to give JRHS the best from its community.

In this, my final newsletter, I have one more ask of you: to donate this year so that improvements to the building - now over 12 years old – can be made in the coming year. We are still responsible for the capital improvements, and we hope to wind down this year leaving the building looking as it did in 2012.

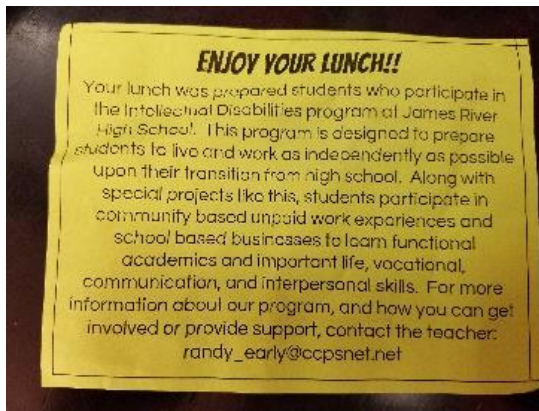
Your support is very much appreciated with both your donations and your encouragement over the years to get to this place today. Heartfelt thank you!



Lisa Germano, founder of Rapids Baseball Incorporated and Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors



The field, building and lights would not have been possible without the leadership and encouragement from John Titus. This plaque is outside the concession stand.



The insert to an RBI Annual Golf Tournament lunch box.



Lisa Schaffner, her son Jesse, Bryan Hannum and Lisa Germano just before the benefit game for the Virginia State Police Foundation.



Bryan Hannum and Jennifer Coleman receiving their appreciation awards.



Bryan Hannum at the first RBI Summer Tournament to raise funds for the building.

2024 Baseball Season

Last year saw 12 seniors close out their career with the Rapids. We are so grateful for all of their contributions over the years, and some of them were on varsity for all four years of their high school experience. A few of the twelve are also playing in college and continuing their baseball journey. We are thankful for all of the effort and hard work those seniors gave to the Rapids program! Last year's team finished 10-10. It was not the season we hoped for, and we lost out on the playoffs due to a tiebreaker, but we learned along the way. Meanwhile, the JV team had an excellent season and the future looks bright for our program. The team had some big wins and played very well together.

Now we turn the page to a new year, and we are very excited. We return three seniors and with them, a strong junior class. The program had a nice fall with two teams in our fall ball league, and we look forward to the beginning of the season in late February. Thank you for your support of our program. We greatly appreciate it!

Pete Schumacher, Head Coach - JRHS Baseball

Rapids Baseball Incorporated-
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www.rbibaseballonline.com