



Ohio Valley Residential Services
Providing community options & support for adults with IDD



Tom Goes To Cooperstown!

By Jeff Krieger & Julie Martinez

Tom moved into the Hansford Group Home December of 1999. As soon as Tom moved in he expressed an interest in going to Cooperstown to see the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Over the years Tom demonstrated a keen interest in baseball and enjoyed collecting baseball cards. Each year at his annual plan meeting, when asked about his hopes and dreams he would always state that he wanted to go to Cooperstown to see the Baseball Hall of Fame. That was one of his wishes that was unwavering as each new year unfolded.



This year Tom told his Home Coordinator Carla Young that he hoped that he would be able to get to Cooperstown by the end of this year. In fact, Tom told anyone who would listen that he wanted to go and tried to recruit those people to take him. Tom had told Carla that he had been making good money at his job and that he had been saving up for the trip, and that he always knew that his lifelong dream of going to the Baseball Hall of Fame would come true.

On the morning of June 28th Carla and Julie (Tom's program coordinator) surprised Tom when he woke up by telling him his dream was about to come true. They explained that after breakfast they would help him pack his bags, get in Julie's car, and start driving to New York. On June 29th, Tom visited the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Tom stated "I could never get tired of baseball" while he was touring the museum. He thoroughly enjoyed himself and was excited to see all the Cincinnati Reds baseball players inducted since the Cincinnati Reds are his favorite baseball team. He also enjoyed seeing Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron. He said that both of these players were "clutch hitters in their day". During the visit, Tom watched a 20-minute film about the history of baseball and during the video the presented multiple choice questions about baseball players over the years and Tom had an uncanny ability to give the correct answer to the questions. His enthusiasm for baseball can be contagious even for those who might not be the biggest baseball fan.

Tom stopped in the gift shop after he viewed the Hall of Fame and excitedly purchased some Cincinnati Reds baseball cards. Along with this purchase, he decided to get a small bat that had the Baseball Hall of Fame on it. He also got a Hoodie with Baseball Hall of Fame Logo on the hoodie to commemorate his trip.

After visiting the Hall of Fame, Tom decided he wanted to play miniature golf. He had a great conversation at the miniature golf course with the attendant telling them about his experience at the Hall of Fame and letting her know about his favorite team, the Cincinnati Reds.

Some of the other notable things that Tom experienced on his trip was eating out at a variety of different restaurants. He would plan where and what he wanted to eat for his next meal. If anyone asked Tom what another of his favorite things to do, he would let them know that he liked shopping at the Dollar Store to get pens, notebooks, and word search books. So of course, Tom did stop at a Dollar Tree to purchase these items during the trip.

During the drive to Cooperstown, it required many stops at toll booths to pay the toll fair. Tom asked "why do you have to pay to ride on the roads"? That was another new experience for Tom.

On the trip home, Tom stopped in Cleveland and went to the Casino to try his luck at the slots. He was happy to walk away a winner of around \$30.00. Also on the way back, Tom stopped at Grandpa's Cheese Barn outside of Cleveland that sold old fashion candy. He

was excited to purchase some orange slices that he used to eat as a kid.

Overall Tom's vacation to New York fulfilled a lifelong dream of seeing the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. He had a magnificent time and it is great to see that some dreams do come true.



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