

OAKLAND FIELD OF DREAMS



On the Horizon. One major “wish-list” item is a regulation girls’ softball field on an adjoining portion of the site. OFOD’s more immediate goal is to improve Rickey Henderson Field with these enhancements:

- ◆ *Electronic scoreboard*
- ◆ *Improved drainage, irrigation & landscaping*
- ◆ *Electrical service/outlets & PA system*
- ◆ *Finished warning track*
- ◆ *Covered/all-weather batting cages*
- ◆ *Additional bleachers, foul ball screens, & netting*



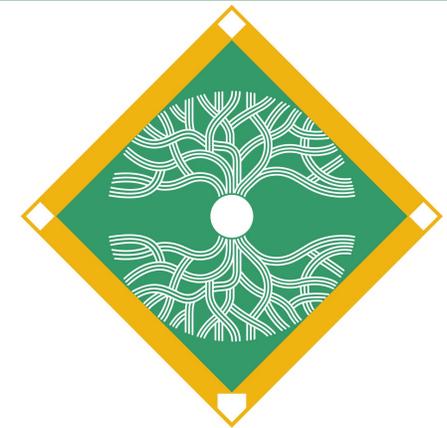
How You Can Help: Contributions & Sponsorships. We invite you to visit the field on 45th St. in Oakland, one block east of Telegraph Avenue. We welcome individual contributions in any amount to help us maintain this inner-city jewel, and to keep the dream alive for Oakland’s youth. OFOD is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization (EIN 38-3802277).

Personal checks should be made payable to *Oakland Field of Dreams*, and sent (with your name, e-mail address & telephone number) to:

Attn: Hank Levy, Treasurer/OFOD
c/o Henry C. Levy & Co.
5940 College Ave.
Oakland, CA 94618

If you’re a local business owner, merchant or service provider, ask us about sponsoring an affordable, on-field advertising banner to showcase your business year-round. E-mail us: info@oaklandfieldofdreams.org

For details, please visit our website:
<http://oaklandfieldofdreams.org/>



**OAKLAND FIELD OF DREAMS
SUPPORTS AND PROMOTES
INNER-CITY YOUTH BASEBALL
FOR OAKLAND’S COMMUNITIES**

<http://oaklandfieldofdreams.org/>



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Background

How It Began. It all started in 2007, when a small group of Oakland Technical High School (Tech) parents, alums and coaches had a bold idea: Tech's "home" baseball field was far away and in poor condition, yet only blocks away, a school with a spacious playground was being decommissioned. *Could a new baseball field be built on the site of the former Carter Middle School?* An informal volunteer group—the Field of Dreams Committee—was quickly formed to find out.

Securing the Site. The Committee obtained authorization from Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to use the site for a new field, and OUSD subsequently contributed \$60,000 toward the project. The Committee also partnered with the nonprofit



Rickey Henderson and Friends at the Field Dedication Ceremony, October 3, 2009

Friends of Oakland Parks & Recreation, as fiscal agent, to receive charitable contributions from the community. (In 2009, the informal Committee became Oakland Field of Dreams (OFOD), a

California nonprofit public benefit corporation.)

The New Field Takes Shape. Less than a year later, a grassroots effort had (1) raised over \$200,000 in cash donations from the Oakland community to fund construction of the project and (2) secured in-kind contributions (labor, materials & "sweat equity") valued at over \$150,000. Although the field—now known as **Rickey Henderson Field**—was ready for baseball in April 2008, the project is still far from complete.

Community Asset. Rickey Henderson Field is one of only a few baseball fields in North Oakland. It is heavily utilized year-round, not only by Tech baseball and other Oakland Athletic League teams, but also by Oakland Intl. High School

and youth baseball programs throughout Oakland and the Bay Area: North Oakland/South Oakland Little League's Juniors & Seniors Divisions, plus Challenger Division for physically and



mentally-challenged youth; American Legion; Oakland Babe Ruth League, and tournament play. Each year, the field provides "a place to play" in an urban setting for hundreds of young players, including at-risk youth in the local community.

Operating & Maintenance Funds Needed. OFOD is an all-volunteer organization, and as such, Tech parents, players and community members log many hours taking care of the field. But OFOD urgently needs cash donations to cover ongoing operating costs, field materials and professional labor to maintain the field properly.