

Good Sports

Auction House Owners Raise Money for Special Needs Athletic Program

by Stephanie Wallin

When Captain's Auction Warehouse owner Chris Campbell and his wife Tiffany learned their young nephews were placed on the autism spectrum, it got them thinking about what they could do to help. "My nephews are six and nine and love to play sports just like any kids," Chris told *RePlay*. "When we discovered The Spirit League, we knew it was the perfect charity for us to be involved with."

Founded in 2004 by a couple who discovered that their own child had special needs, and based near Campbell's business in Orange County, Calif., The Spirit League offers three co-ed sports per year — baseball, basketball and soccer — for children and young adults (ages 6-22) who are physically active, but have difficulty keep-



ing up with their peers.

The grassroots organization provides programs for participants with autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, down syndrome, cerebral palsy and/or other physical and emotional disabilities. It also gives an opportunity for participants to learn basic sports skills, build self-esteem, experience teamwork and create long-lasting friendships with fellow participants and their families.



"Our nephews are athletes with special needs and enjoy playing team sports on Spirit League," said Tiffany, who is currently serving on their board. "We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to play sports, so our sponsorship really makes sense."

The couple has been involved with

raising money for the organization through their family-owned business for the better part of two years, and have quickly become the League's largest corporate supporter.

"I raise funds for Spirit League during our amusement auctions which are held every four to six weeks,"



explained Tiffany, who donates her time by manning an information table during their warehouse auctions, enabling her to speak with attendees about the league and offer up raffle tickets for chances to win prizes.

“We’re successful with it because we love helping the kids play, as do our generous auction attendees,” Tiffany added. “Every donation made live at auction automatically enters attendees into several drawings we do on auction day, and prizes include partner event passes such as Pinball Madness, INDISC Tournament, Arcade Expo and Retro City Festival. We also give away pinball marquee artwork and Bowlmor and Retrovolt Arcade passes.”

Chris revealed that with the help of

their generous community, the couple has raised over \$8,000 since 2017, which helps the league pay for game equipment and facility rental fees. “I have been really successful at getting local businesses and people in the co-op industry involved,” he said. “We also have a great staff that does all it can to support Spirit League, and are more than willing to jump in and take on all of the raffle ticket drawings.”

The Campbells’ primary fundraising is through raffle sales, and many local businesses contribute to the auction house’s prize table as well. “We do drawings and ticket sales throughout the day, and at the end Tiffany totals it out and I, as the Captain, match whatever she’s raised in tickets, with all pro-

ceeds going to Spirit League,” Chris explained.

Melanie Smith, executive director for Spirit League, told *RePlay*, “Captain’s Auction Warehouse and the Captain are more than just supporters, they are truly our community partner. Not only do they raise funds for the league then match them dollar for dollar, they also raise community awareness by showing their support of our young athletes with autism.

“Their recurring donations have contributed towards 50 athletes receiving scholarships to play basketball, baseball or soccer in 2018 and equipment for all three sports,” Smith continued. “We’re grateful for their partnership and are humbled by their generous support, which went towards providing financial assistance to athletes of all age divisions.”

“I believe they all need a team building place to meet and have sports and great activities,” shared Chris. “That’s where my heart is, and every little bit helps. There is definitely a need for more fundraising. I will try to run my business successfully so I can continue to contribute successfully.”

Looking forward, the Campbells hope that this article will help inspire other business owners to make a positive impact on their community, whether it be through Spirit League, or any local charitable organization.

“We added a section on our website for people to learn more about Spirit League and they can donate online, which aligns with the Captain’s mission to help people play,” concluded Chris. “I believe everybody in business who is in the position to give back, should seriously consider sponsoring a charity or getting involved in Spirit League. It’s good for the industry, and it’s good for people’s individual business as well. It makes me feel good too! You’ve gotta give back!”

For more information, visit Captain’s Arcade Warehouse or The Spirit League online at, captainsauctionwarehouse.com and spiritleague.org.

