

Miracle League – Alvin’s Story

When Alvin joined Miracle League at age 7, he was a kid who loved baseball, but a past experience on a traditional little league team had shaken his confidence. His mom, Virginia remembers that first Miracle League game vividly. Alvin clung to his dad and begged not to go on the field. “For a kid who loved baseball, that was heartbreaking,” she recalls.

But she also remembers what happened next. Week by week, Alvin began to feel safe again. A familiar volunteer greeted him every Saturday. There were no stares, no judgment. Just a space to show up and time to be himself.

“The biggest change was just that he wanted to be there,” Virginia says. “He’d get there early to warm up, practice running bases, and pitching. Everything was about being part of something. Being part of a team where he didn’t feel different.”

Over time, Alvin’s personality and passion began to shine. He would imitate Ichiro Suzuki, stepping into the batter’s box like a pro. He would joke with volunteers and playfully steal bases in slow motion. The crowd would cheer, the volunteers played along, and in those moments, Alvin was just a kid playing baseball.

Virginia reflects, saying for a small period of time she was able to forget that he has Autism and Hydrocephalus. “At Miracle League, nobody stared. If anything, they embraced him for exactly who he is. They’d say, ‘Oh, it’s just Alvin,’ and that was enough. That meant everything.”

Miracle League helped Alvin grow in more ways than one. Socially, he began engaging with people he recognized, even starting conversations about sports, something that had long been a challenge. That growth prepared him for high school, where he joined the Everett High School Varsity Baseball Team as assistant manager.

In his role for the varsity team, Alvin did everything from keeping the scorebook to hyping up the team from the dugout. “He became their cheerleader,” Virginia laughs. “He’d say things coaches couldn’t, like, ‘We’re on a six-game losing streak, we’ve gotta fix this!’ And the team just accepted it, because they accepted him.”

That confidence, the courage to speak up, the joy of being part of a team was built over 11 seasons on a Miracle League field.

Though Alvin graduated last year, he's not done with Miracle League. These days, he comes back to coach third base, socialize with volunteers, and throw warmup pitches. "He's made a few heartfelt retirement speeches," Virginia jokes, "but he always finds his way back. It's his safe space."

For Virginia, Miracle League didn't just change Alvin's life, it shaped her whole family. Her other children now volunteer. They've learned that every child, regardless of ability, has something to offer. "That's what community is," she says. "Everyone has a role. You just have to look for it."