

A DAY AT ANGEL STADIUM THANKS TO THE ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SPORTS FOUNDATION AND THE LOS ANGELES ANGELS OF ANAHEIM

August 2018

For most children and families, a Major League Baseball game is an event to look forward to, but for children with autism spectrum disorder or other neurodevelopmental disorders, certain circumstances can make a day at the ballpark challenging. The many fans, the roar of the crowd, and loud music might trigger a meltdown that is difficult to control.

Thanks to the generous support of the Orange County Youth Sports Foundation (OCYSF) and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, The Center for Autism's Behavior Intervention ABA team took over 40 children and parents to an Angels' game in July and again, in August. Being at the ballpark accompanied by familiar and friendly peers, The Center staff and family made for an enjoyable day for all.

OCYSF helps children overcome personal obstacles, whether emotional, physical or financial, to improve their lives, realize their dreams and achieve their goals through participation in athletic activities and attendance at major sporting events.

"We're trying to make a positive impact on children by providing athletic opportunities and experiences they might not otherwise have," said Bob Callahan, who serves on



the board of directors of the Orange County Youth Sports Foundation.

Each child received free entry to the game, an Angel's hat and food vouchers to enjoy a box of Cracker Jack popcorn or a hotdog. For some, it was their first baseball game.

"Community outings are a great opportunity for our patients to practice the social skills they are being taught," said Catherine Brock, director of The Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. "Over the past four months, we have been teaching them how to order their own food, keep track of their money, stay with the group, and engage in conversations with peers. It was really rewarding to see their progress and the fun they had throughout the day."

One parent said thanks to The Center, OCYSF and the Angels, her 14-year-old went to his first Angels' game and tried caramel corn.

"To most people, this might not be a big deal at all -- for us, it's huge," the parent said. "Our family isn't able to do things together, which brings me so much isolation. Trying new things is the beginning to more independence."

So, thank you OCYSF and the Angels for your generous support of our mission to provide and help and hope to families affected by ASD!



THE CENTER FOR AUTISM
& NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS