



SOUTHWEST INSTITUTE

for Families and Children with Special Needs
family-centered research, education, and dissemination

May 18, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

We are members of the Racing to the Future project, a federally funded program to help youth with health and physical disabilities make a successful transition to adult life. As part of this project, we have been studying the physical accessibility of public places for persons who have physical disabilities.

We recently received passes that enabled us to attend a spring training game. Because we learned that you plan to do some remodeling of the stadium, we thought you would be interested in learning about the results of the survey we developed on the accessibility of baseball stadiums. The Baseball Stadium Survey rates the accessibility of parking, ramps, seating, visibility, concession stands and restrooms. Each member of the team completed the Survey after attending the game.

The results indicate that the stadium scores very high on parking, ramps, seating and visibility. Moreover, volunteers went out of their way to be helpful in the parking lot and seating areas. After the game, they helped us meet the players.

The one area that received lower scores was restrooms. We had difficulty using individual stalls in a wheelchair. It was not possible to close the door in the women's bathroom. There were some problems reaching sinks. Weeks later we learned that there is a unisex bathroom, so perhaps a map listing accessibility features would solve the problem.

We also have suggestions for improving the concession stand. It would be very helpful if the menus were printed in brighter colors, and if drinks were served in more durable cups with lids.

We really enjoyed our day at the ballpark. It was great to meet with our friends and families on such a beautiful day. Thank you for your generosity. We hope that you find our observations helpful.

Sincerely,

Casey Walker
Jessie Sandoval
Chris Smith
Dave Carey

Karen Burstein
Tanis Bryan
Judie Walker