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## Remarks for Opening of Art Van Baseball Complex, delivered on August 1, 2014

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Remarks for Opening of Art Van Baseball Complex  
By Arend D. Lubbers  
August 1, 2014

This is a field of dreams. It is a field of dreams for children and youth with special needs who now have a home field.

It is a field of dreams for boys and girls, young women and men, from West Michigan and all the upper Mid-West, who have the best facility in which to play baseball. It is a field of dreams in a sense for motel, hotel, restaurant, and shop owners who will benefit immeasurably from its location as they seek to make their businesses thrive.

For the county, it will help make dreams come true for the citizens because of increased tax revenues.

For the donors, they have made the dream come true through their philanthropy as they always do in West Michigan.

This field is the possible dream come true and would not be here except for our “Chief Dreamer” – Ambassador Peter Secchia. He is the father of the West Michigan Sports Commission whose efforts bring us to the Art Van fields tonight.

As the chief baseball philosopher, the former New York Yankee catcher Yogi Berra allegedly said, “When you come to the fork in the road take it.” We at the Sports Commission took it and now we offer you and many others this Art Van Baseball Complex for your enjoyment. It is another jewel in West Michigan’s crown, a place we call home; a place that keeps on growing, building, and thriving; a place that makes dreams come true.