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Build Our Ballpark receives local donationsBy **ANDREW WIND**, Courier Staff Writer

WATERLOO --- A major ballpark renovation has received a big funding boost from three local organizations.

Build Our Ballpark recently announced it is spearheading renovation of the Tibbitts Complex at West Donald and Cedar Bend streets. The philanthropic organization has received pledges of \$5,000 from the Waterloo Kiwanis Club, \$2,000 from Crossroads Rotary and \$1,000 from the Waterloo Optimist Club.

"We're thrilled by this support," Bob Hellman Sr., executive director of Build Our Ballpark, said in a news release. He founded the organization last year to build and renovate ballparks.

"The generous contributions by these organizations show their commitment to the community and to local youth," he added. "These donations will really help get the ball rolling on the Tibbitts Complex project."

The renovation project will fill a void in Waterloo, where the city leisure services department is nearly 10 fields short of effectively scheduling youth baseball and softball. Complex improvements will include construction of a new youth baseball and softball diamond, new dugouts and bleachers, and other improvements at the two existing fields.

"We are excited to be a part of the Build Our Ballpark effort at Tibbitts Complex," said Kiwanis Club president Barbara Miller. "Kiwanis' purpose is to 'change the world one child and community at a time,' and contributing to this project will help us achieve that goal."

Mike Tompkins, president of the Optimist Club, said, "We are all about helping as many kids as we possibly can. We have a long history of supporting youth baseball and softball in the Cedar Valley."

Meg Brady, president of Crossroads Rotary, said, "Supporting Build Our Ballpark is a great way for us to touch children's lives in the Cedar Valley. They showed us a definite need in the community, and we are happy to help them fill it."

Build Our Ballpark is seeking further funding for the complex through the Frosted Flakes Plant a Seed promotion. Supporters can help by visiting www.frostedflakes.com and voting for the Tibbitts Complex project. Finalists will be announced May 1.

To learn more about Build Our Ballpark and the Tibbitts Complex project, visit the Web site www.BuildOurBallpark.org.

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