

## Garrett's Baseball Barn

By Helen (Robb) Garrett

Shawn Garrett has been a baseball player since he could hold a bat. When Shawn was a boy, one could drive through Kinmundy and see him and his dad, Reed, at the ball diamond. Most folks assumed it was Reed working Shawn out, but truth to tell, it was Shawn asking for "one more bucket of balls, Dad". Shawn was drafted by the San Diego Padres out of high school and signed with them the next year. He has played with several teams over the years and has played in Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela in the winter leagues. In 2004, Shawn was playing in Maracaibo, Venezuela, and made the acquaintance of Kevin Barry, a young man from New Jersey pitching in the Atlanta Braves farm system. As they visited, Shawn talked continuously of his hometown of Kinmundy, and how much he loved it and missed it. Kevin, like Shawn, had played all over the country, and found the Midwest to be a nice area. He and his wife, Samantha, researched Kinmundy on the internet and the following summer bought a home in the area. In 2005, Reed and Shawn opened Garrett's Baseball Barn to offer instruction in hitting and pitching for the young men and women of Kinmundy and the surrounding areas.