# For Immediate Release

**Ballfield To Be Built In Child’s Memory**

Dateline:  Colchester, CT, July 22, 2009

At a July 22 joint meeting of the Colchester Boards of Selectmen, Education and Finance, the town leaders cleared the way for the Cody Camp Memorial Field Foundation to officially move forward on the field that they have been working toward for more than two and a half years.

In October 2006, only two months after being diagnosed, Cody Camp passed away at the far too young age of 6 from Burkitt’s Lymphoma, a form of cancer.  In memory of Cody, and in recognition of his love for baseball, family friends created the foundation with the mission of building a baseball field bearing his name.  Fundraising began, and money and commitments for time and materials grew quickly.

After researching multiple locations for the field, the Foundation found eager partners in the Town of Colchester and its school system.  The Town had recently completed a needs assessment that identified a shortage of playing fields in town, among other things, and the schools had recently purchased land adjacent to the their property with the hopes of eventually adding fields.  The match seemed meant to be.

Now, after working out the many logistics and legal issues involved in a project such as this, the field is ready to come to fruition.  With the signing of the contract, the Foundation is now approved to finalize its construction plans and begin clearing the land.

Bob McGovern, head of the Foundation, credited town staff with helping to move the project forward:  “This partnership would not have materialized without the strong leadership of Linda Hodge, Colchester’s First Selectmen and Jay Cohen, the Director of Colchester’s Park and Recreation Department.  The Field project has been embraced by the community as a way to memorialize Cody Camp, and the children of Colchester who have passed before their time.  The new facility will also fill Colchester's desperate need for more athletic fields.  We are very excited that Cody Camp Memorial Field will soon become a reality.  It will be a heartfelt day, when Cody's friends will be able to play ball on the field named after their much missed friend.”

A regulation little league field is planned for a 1 ½-acre portion of land behind Jack Jackter Intermediate School.  Aside from the usual amenities, such as fencing, dugouts and the like, the field will be home to a stone monument memorializing Cody Camp and other Colchester children who have passed away.

“The Foundation’s dedication to keeping Cody’s memory alive is truly inspiring,” said First Selectman, Linda Hodge.  “Combined with their commitment to the community, they are creating a wonderful legacy for the Camp family and all of Colchester.  It has been, and continues to be, an honor to work with them in achieving success for this project.”

Superintendent of Schools, Karen Loiselle was equally pleased, and sees the project as a perfect fit:  “This wonderful project is completely aligned with the Board of Education’s strategic plan goals to develop partnerships to help us meet our educational and facility needs.  It exemplifies the strong, collaborative relationship among all of our boards and their commitment to work together to make this important project happen.  The field will be a lasting legacy to Cody Camp and his love of baseball.”

While a significant amount of money and labor is already dedicated to the project, there is still need for more, which will allow the Foundation to build a first-class facility for use by the schools and community.  With the plan now a reality, it should be even easier to solicit donations to this tax-exempt, non-profit organization.

After years of planning and waiting, the Foundation is anxious to begin and has an aggressive time table.  They hope to complete the construction this fall, with the field available for play in the spring.

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