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Hartford Courant.



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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006

4S★ Eastern Edition

\$1.00 in Fairfield County and outside Connecticut

Foundation Building Baseball Field To Help
Others Enjoy Game Young Sox Fan Loved

A TIP OF THE CAP IN BOY'S MEMORY

By **TRACY GORDON FOX**
COURANT STAFF WRITER

COLCHESTER — In his short six years of life, Cody Camp grew to love baseball, especially the Boston Red Sox.

When he was fighting a rare form of lymphoma at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford this summer, he kept a signed picture of Red Sox pitcher Luis Tiant at his bedside and wore his baseball cap to give him strength through bone marrow tests and chemotherapy. When Cody died Oct. 13 from complications of the disease, he was buried in his official Boston Red Sox jersey and cap.

Now, in memory of the blue-eyed Colchester first-grader, friends of his family have decided to build a kind of "field of dreams," a baseball field where other children can play the game he loved. The Cody Camp Memorial Field Foundation has already received more than \$90,000 in dona-

te a piece of land, at least 7 acres, on which they plan to build a public field.

Cody, who was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma Aug. 25, just after T-ball season ended, rarely complained through his treatments. He would tell his family, "The Boston Red Sox are my heroes."



CODY CAMP

And his family members would tell him, "If the Boston Red Sox knew you, Cody, you would be their hero."

Cody's parents, Donald Camp, a retired Hartford police sergeant, and Patricia Camp, a nurse, support the idea for the field, said Cody's aunt, Ann Cody Zory. "They feel it is a beautiful tribute to Cody," Zory said. "He loved baseball, and he loved soccer."

At the entrance to the field, foundation

Baseball

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members say, a statue will be placed in Cody's memory. At the base of the statue will be etched the names of the corporations, families and individuals who gave to the cause.

Once the foundation secures the land, it will be cleared, and dugouts and stands will be built. The foundation has

applied for a tax-deductible charitable status, which should make selling or donating the land more attractive to the landowner, members said. When the fund meets its goal, it will be shut down with all remaining proceeds forwarded to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in White Plains, N.Y., foundation members said.

Robert and Erin McGovern became friendly with the Camps after their son, Alec McGovern, and Cody became best friends. They have helped organize the effort to build a baseball field.

"This is a great way to memorialize a little boy who simply loved baseball," Robert McGovern said.

Town officials say an additional baseball field is welcome, since Colchester is desperately short of recreation fields for baseball and soccer because of the community's rapid growth and tight budget.

To name an existing field or property after Cody would take months, with meetings and a town referendum required, officials said.

Jay Cohen, the town's parks and

recreation director, said the town definitely needs more fields, but officials will first have to examine the proposal before accepting the property to make sure its ongoing maintenance would be cost-effective and manageable.

"We are really excited about it, but we have to do it in a smart way," Cohen said.

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The foundation's website is www.codycampfield.com.