

Thank you for considering Ellsworth Area Little League, from Ellsworth, Maine for your Field of Dreams III opportunity.

Like the classic fable “Stone Soup” where a hungry village learns to feed itself through cooperation, the Ellsworth Area Little League has brought members of our community together to transform the old, decrepit Demeyer field into one of the best baseball and softball complexes in the state of Maine.

The local YMCA, which coordinates the league, has recruited volunteers for the effort, including a legion of individuals who have dedicated countless hours, hard work, and financial support, and a local construction company, which has donated expertise, labor, and equipment. With their help, the Ellsworth Little League has transformed three uneven, ragged fields into a complete complex including a batting cage, concession stand, bathrooms, enclosed dugouts and even our own version of the Green Monster (a little smaller and in right field).

All this hard work has already been rewarded. The Ellsworth Area Little League was awarded the 2006 State Championships for 11-12 baseball and softball. Having a first-rate facility has led to a huge increase in enrollment over recent years. Baseball enrollment has increased over 200% in the last three years and softball enrollment has increased over 150% in just the last two years. Much of this is due to the YMCA’s coordination of development programs at the fields. These include spring and fall baseball and softball development programs, farm league, t-ball, and free clinics. Young players and their families are drawn to these programs by their quality and by the spirit of volunteer involvement surrounding the improvement of the Demeyer complex.

We would like to continue our progress by installing lighting. We have approached many companies including the local electricity supplier in our area; however, lighting for Demeyer fields is still a distant dream. While each year our fundraising and volunteer efforts increase, resources are stretched, with most time and money spent on improving and maintaining the fields as well as continuing our promise to area children to keep fees low and offer scholarships to those who need assistance. We are proud to be able to say that no child has been refused the right to play due to the inability to pay.

Like Little League players around the world our players dream of playing at the highest level. They dream of hearing their name called over the loud speaker as they head to the plate. They dream of cheering on their teammates from the dugout. Since most of our players are Boston Red Sox fans, they dream of hitting one “over the monster.” And of course, they dream of playing under the lights. With a bit of stone soup magic, we’ve been able to deliver on most of their dreams. But we have not been able to offer our players the chance to play under the lights.

Playing baseball and softball in Downeast Maine does present some unique challenges. Although the sun does not set in June until 8:30 pm, the time of sunset quickly advances, to the point at which many practices are ended for safety concerns as early as 5:00 pm. This puts our players at a distinct disadvantage compared to other regional leagues.

We are committed to offering the best to our children. We believe that professional lighting is the key ingredient missing in our stone soup. We hope that you agree. Thank you again for your consideration and for your commitment to promoting Little League in the New England Area.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Farragher
Ellsworth Area Little League President

