



Linda B. Condrillo for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
A GENEROUS DONATION...The Mountainside Softball Association donated this scoreboard that had been erected on the Deerfield School grounds on Memorial Day weekend.

## MS Softball Assn. Dedicates Scoreboard to Community

By LINDA B. CONDRILLO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE—Need another reason to be proud to call Mountainside home? Just one year ago, the Mountainside Softball Association (MSA) was established, increasing opportunities for girls in the borough. Today, ladies age 14 and under finally have a league of their own.

This past Memorial Day weekend, the MSA erected a scoreboard on the lighted senior field on the Deerfield School grounds, where it will be utilized by the middle school, recreational softball teams and the MSA Rebels.

Margie Pires, president of the MSA, told *The Westfield Leader/Scotch Plains Fanwood Times*, "The scoreboard was a way to give back to the community which has been so supportive."

Mrs. Pires is the mother of three girls, all of whom have the love of the game - obviously, an inherited trait. She noted "I have been playing on a team every year since the fourth grade, and my daughters have been coming to watch my games ever since they were born."

Whether playing on a league herself, or coaching her daughters' teams throughout the past decade, Mrs. Pires and "all of her girls" can't seem to get enough of the sport. Problem was, funding for girls softball was limited. Before the formation of the MSA, the summer softball travel program was run under the auspices of the Mountainside PAL.

According to Mrs. Pires, "Because of minimal funding, the girls teams had few opportunities to participate in tournaments." She also added, "While we were willing to earn our keep to do what we had to do to enter more tournaments, we were prohibited from doing fundraising because of certain PAL regulations."

According to Mrs. Pires, the only way to offer a more competitive environment was to branch out and form the Mountainside Softball Association.

And that's when members of the community stepped up to the plate. A letter calling for contributions was mailed to residents in Mountainside to support operating expenses such as field maintenance, equipment and insurance.

But some things, money just can't buy. Mrs. Pires said, "The formation of the MSA was very much a team effort."

She added, "In addition to the fundraising campaign, we were well-received by the school community. Chief School Administrator Richard O'Malley was supportive of the scoreboard from the get go."

According to Mrs. Pires, Mountainside police officer Tom Murphy did all the research on picking out the scoreboard and worked with Town Engineer Michael Disko to get the necessary approvals for the installation of the scoreboard. Another friend of the Board and licensed electrician, Angelo Palumbo, offered to wire the scoreboard, gratis. Both men have daughters on the team and Mr. Palumbo's wife coaches recreational softball.

Of course, money does help. Mrs. Pires noted, "We were fortunate to have PSE&G make a monetary donation to our team, and we welcome other corporate sponsorships." She also noted that more fundraising is planned, which will subsidize the cost of clinics, tournament fees, and uniforms - "because that matters to girls."

Mrs. Pires told *The Leader/Times* that the MSA is a not-for-profit organization, and to be successful, neighborhood support is vital. She said, "We love to see people come out to the games and watch us play under the lights - whether they have kids in the program or not."

The MSA plans to continue building the program, which has been on the upswing since last year because of the addition of a "10 and under" team - not previously offered under the former PAL arrangement. Mrs. Pires told *The Leader/Times*, "Although the former PAL program was successful and produced a lot of very talented players, we were not able to reach the younger set."

Looking to the future, Mrs. Pires also noted, "We may run a Fall Ball program, as we are trying to reach as big a pocket of girls as we can, and not just the 'gung ho competitive players,' but any Mountainside girl who wants to improve her skills." Ever hear of "Girl Power?"



Linda B. Condrillo for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
THE NATURAL...Jennifer Quaglia of the Mountainside Softball Association Rebels prepares to catch a ball. The scoreboard, donated by the association, is in the background.



### Hye-Young Choi

# 1 Realtor Total Production - 11 Years

email: hye-young@att.net

web: www.hyeyoungchoi.com

NJ Circle of Excellence - Gold Level: 1987-2001

Platinum Level: 2002-2006



Westfield . . . Custom colonial home, 6600 sq ft built by Stone Creek. 6 Bedroom, 7 1/2 Bths. Exquisite millwork, 10 ft ceil 1st flr, 9ft - 2nd, 4 frplcs, 2 story Efoyer w/ circular strcase, banquet size DR, Library w/frplc, 1st fl guest suite, Family Rm, Kit, walk-in pantry & wine cellar. Master suite w/frplc, w/2 wlk-in closets, dressing rm, sitting room. 3rd floor has loft & private bedroom suite. 1st and 2nd flr game rooms, 3-car garage, 4 zn HT & CAC. \$3,995,000 WSF0065



Westfield . . . Buontempo Homes presents this luxury home w/11 RMS, 5 BR, 5 1/2 BTH in the Indian Forest area. This stately Colonial offers approx 7400 sq.ft. inc finished lower level. Noteworthy features: MBR suite & BTH w/2 frplcs, 2 story Great Rm w/ frplc & French drs to SUNRM. 20ft. deluxe KIT w/butler's pantry. Living & Dining Rm w/accented ceilings, Library, guest suite, 3 CAR GRGE, exquisite lndscp & interior molding package. \$2,695,000 WSF0905



Westfield . . . Charming, quality colonial on good size lot. Living Room w/ frplc, bay wndw & hardwood floors, Formal Dining Room opens to sunny Den with sliders to deck and patio. EIK, 3 BR w/ample closet space, 1 1/2 BTH, RR, CAC., fenced rear yard, close to tw n & trans. \$628,000 WSF0476



Westfield . . . Newly listed well maintained 4 bedroom, 3 bath bi-level with CAC, hrdwd floors under carpeting, replaced windows, newer master bath, exterior painted 2007. Sunny LR w/ bay window, formal DR, eat-in kitchen, den, grd level FR. 2 car grge, lrg bkyrd. \$648,000 WSF0509



## OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, June, 10th 1:00pm to 4:00pm**

Barbara Callahan  
Brokerbmc@aol.com

Direct:908-301-2886  
Cell: 908-447-1806



**325 N. Chestnut St. Westfield**

Pristine 7 room, 3BR/2.5BA Center Entry Colonial within walking distance of Wilson School, downtown, and NYC transportation. Finished lower level boasts a rec room, bedroom, and full bath.

Offered at \$ 599,900.



209 Central Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-233-5555 Fax: 908-233-1709



WESTFIELD OFFICE  
209 CENTRAL AVENUE  
908-233-5555, EXT. 169  
DIRECT LINE: 908-301-2015



© 2007 Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Owned and Operated by NRT Incorporated.