



Robbie Fusco Named 2015 Star of the Neighborhood

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa has selected youth sports volunteer Robbie Fusco as the 2015 Star of the Neighborhood.

The Star of the Neighborhood Award is sponsored by the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa, and its purpose is to identify and honor those unsung heroes of our community who quietly, persistently and without fanfare voluntarily perform good deeds that serve the needs of their neighbors and/or the community.

Community members were invited to nominate a resident of Playa del Rey, Playa Vista or Westchester whose efforts fit this criteria, and all the nominations were evaluated by an ad hoc committee of the Neighborhood Council. As the winning honoree, Fusco will be honored at Westchester's Annual Fourth of July Parade.

Fusco has volunteered at Nielson Field for almost 25 years, serving as Westchester Little League Board president five times. His most memorable moment during those 25 years was when our Westchester girls team went to the World Series of Softball. It was a televised game, and although Westchester did not win, it certainly put our community on

the map.

For years, Fusco has volunteered his time to mow all of the fields at Nielson, cutting the grass, seeding and irrigating the fields, maintaining the parking lots and snack bar, and everything else that makes our field the best in the district. If these duties weren't enough, he also umpires.



He hopes to build a safe play yard for the younger brothers and sisters of the players and extend the recycled irrigation around the perimeter of the parking lot. He is looking for help to fund a soft surface made of recycled materials. Of course nothing would happen without the sponsors, whose banners he is quick to point out are hung along the outfield fence.

"Even when he had severe back trouble, he was still out there on the mower," said Bill and Janet Kinsella in their nomination of Fusco. "He regularly is the first person there and the last person to leave, making sure that the bathrooms are clean and

that all the trash is emptied (a completely thankless task). When asked why he does it all, he says that it's 'so the kids have a place to play.' He's a truly a devoted volunteer!"



"The committee's decision was very difficult because we have so many people who do great things in our community," said Garrett Smith, a member of the NCWP board who chaired the selection committee. "But Robbie's efforts set her apart. He has been incredibly giving of his time and energy to make our community even better, and his volunteer spirit and enthusiasm are contagious!"

Smith said that everyone who was nominated will be invited to a future Neighborhood Council meeting to be recognized.

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Next Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa board meeting: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 7 in the Community Room at 7166 W. Manchester Ave. (at Lincoln Blvd.), in Westchester

