

NORSHAFT YOUTH BASEBALL

The Norshaft Youth Baseball program had a very successful year. The changeover to the Cal Ripkin league has opened many opportunities for us in terms of regular season games and All-Stars. We played teams from Hoosick all the way to Londonderry, helping to keep the kids interested and not playing friends and neighbors over and over again. Our "Major League" and the seven- and eight-year-old instructional teams played in Greenwich, NY, District and the annual Cambridge, NY, tournaments.

We enroll approximately 175 children from Shaftsbury and North Bennington. Roughly 60% of our children are residents of Shaftsbury. Last year our league was comprised of three tee-ball, four instructional, two minor, and two major league teams.

This year we will be spending somewhere between four to six thousand dollars to resurface the base paths at the field in Howard Park. They are currently dangerous for base runners and have not been resurfaced in four years. This is in addition to our normal expenses.

We are asking the citizens of Shaftsbury to continue to assist us in offering baseball as an option for our children. Norshaft Youth Baseball relies on funding from Shaftsbury and North Bennington to remain viable and to keep our enrollment fees at an affordable level.

We believe that coaching and mentoring our children is the most important role in Youth Baseball. "Thank you" managers and coaches for your countless hours and many weekends you sacrifice so our children can enjoy the sport. Your dedication has not gone unnoticed! Thanks, too, to those who donated time and money to Norshaft Baseball. Without your determination and dedication we would not have had such a great year. I look forward to working with all of you next year.

Respectfully submitted

Jeffrey L. Whitesell, President