

Businesses rally for hometown hero

Local businesses have raised more than \$300,000 to memorialize fallen Sacramento Sheriff's Deputy Jeffrey Mitchell, who was murdered in 2006 while on duty. The funds will be used to transform Bertelsen Park — an existing sports complex in Mitchell's hometown of El Dorado Hills — into a state-of-the-art Little League field.

Local companies pitching in include Bank of America, Roebelen Contracting Inc. and Land Architecture Inc. Each company has committed more than \$100,000 in cash and services. "Roebelen has agreed to manage the entire construction project free of charge, which is a humongous time and cost," says Susan Johnson, the project's fundraising manager.

Land Architecture, a Roseville design firm, is providing the baseball complex's blueprints and architectural planning without charge. "It's amazing when you have businesses that step up like that," Johnson says.

Jeff Mitchell Field could top \$2 million, she says, "but we have scaled-down models too, considering we started in an economic downturn."

— Christine Stanley

