



Four Valley Youth Sport Programs receive a total of \$6,782 from AZSTA

GLENDALE, Ariz. (Jan. 17, 2008) – The Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) has awarded \$6,782 to four valley youth sport programs for new equipment and renovations.

The Estrella Youth Sports (EYS) program in Goodyear, received \$1,882 to assist in the purchase of new adjustable basketball rims for the 300 children in their basketball program. The EYS provides children ranging from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade in Buckeye, Goodyear, Avondale and the surrounding Southwest Valley, an opportunity to participate in affordable youth sport programs. EYS currently offers the following sport programs for more than 750 children in the Southwest Valley; baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, and gymnastics. EYS Director Minnie Kamarata, said the funding will allow them to continue on with their mission statement, ‘Estrella Youth Sports supports the community and encourages our children to become positive role models throughout participation in youth sports’.

The Tempe Family YMCA received \$1,200 to assist in the purchase of volleyball and basketball nets along with new basketballs for their youth sports program currently being offered at the North Tempe Multigenerational Center. This program serves over 300 children annually, where the center offers free sport programs for youth, ages six through seven. Tracey Lane, Tempe Family YMCA Human Resources Manager said the goals of their program are to help children develop socially, emotionally and physically in a safe and nurturing environment and the funding will help contribute to these goals.

The Sandpiper Elementary in Scottsdale received \$2,500 to assist in the resurfacing of their basketball courts. The current courts are rundown with cracks and bare areas that are slippery and a hazard at all times. By resurfacing the courts, they will

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be utilized for basketball, volleyball and four-square activities, thus allowing greater use of the courts. Sandpiper Principal Steven Jeras said the funding will not only impact their 450 students who use the courts for physical education classes and recess, but that it will also benefit their before and after school sports programs, and Athletes in Training, a community-based program that uses the facility every Friday.

The Pinnacle Soccer Academy in Scottsdale received \$1,200 to assist in the purchase of new soccer goals and nets for their U-10 program at Thunderbird Park West. The current soccer goals are outdated and adult size. Jay Wolpe, Pinnacle Soccer Academy President said the youth's experiences are hindered when they play with equipment not designed for their age. The new equipment will allow for the youth's full experience of playing soccer and will benefit an average of 100 youth each day utilized by the academy as well as the other clubs who use the field.

AZSTA is a Municipal Corporation dedicated to enhancing Maricopa County's economy and community's quality of life. AZSTA gave these awards under its 'Quick Grant Program', a program which accepts funding applications on a year-round basis for smaller projects and programs requesting a maximum of \$2,500. AZSTA sets aside five-percent of its annual Youth & Amateur Sports funding per Arizona Revised Statutes for this program and awards the funds on a first-come, first-served basis providing that the program's criteria are met. Grants are based on a completed Quick Grant Program Funding Application and project budget template and the stated need to serve youth and amateur sports, demonstration of financial need and the benefit to a local community. Information about AZSTA and the Youth & Amateur Sports grants is available on AZSTA's website at www.az-sta.com.

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