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ARIZONA SPORTS AND TOURISM AUTHORITY AWARDS \$1.56 MILLION IN 2010 YOUTH AND AMATEUR SPORTS BIENNIAL GRANTS

PHOENIX- The Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority Board of Directors unanimously approved \$1.56 million in grants as part of the youth and amateur sports biennial grant process.

The grants will assist 18 organizations for projects that serve the youth and amateur sports community within Maricopa County.

"Among the numerous elements of AZSTA, funding Youth and Amateur Sports grants are the most rewarding," said Jerry Walker, Youth and Amateur Sports Committee Chairman.

"Being able to give back to the community that supports us is an important facet of AZSTA's work," said AZSTA President and CEO, Tom Sadler.

One of the recipients, Miracle League of Arizona, is building a family-friendly ballpark that addresses the needs of special needs children & young adults. The facility incorporates traditional architectural elements, special synthetic turf, enlarged dugouts, field & picnic area lighting and shaded grandstand.

"The generous support of AZSTA will enable the Miracle League of Arizona to construct a facility that will be one of the very finest special needs sports facilities throughout the United States. Thank you AZSTA for helping make it possible for those with special needs to achieve the same dream as their healthy peers—to play ball," said Dan Haren, Sr., President of the Miracle League of Arizona.

Other grant recipients include:

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living
Arizona Recreation Center for the Handicapped
Arizona's Children Association
Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale
Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix
Boys and Girls Clubs of East Valley
Children's Museum of Phoenix
City of El Mirage
City of Glendale Parks and Recreation Department
City of Mesa Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Department
City of Phoenix

Deer Valley Unified School District
Foundation for Blind Children
Miracle League of Arizona
Paloma Sports Outreach
Special Olympics of Arizona
The Salvation Army
Valley of the Sun YMCA

Formed as a result of voter approval of Prop. 302 in Nov. 2000, AZSTA is responsible for owning and operating the University of Phoenix Stadium; funding tourism promotion in Maricopa County; funding the construction and renovation of Cactus League Spring Training facilities; and funding youth and amateur sports projects and programs. Since its inception AZSTA has given more than \$11.4 million back to the community for youth and amateur sports facilities.

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