

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2010

Contact:

Summer Johnson

571.201.7204

summer@johnsondelaneystrategies.com

**MIRACLE LEAGUE OF ARIZONA RECEIVES \$250,000 GRANT
FROM ARIZONA SPORTS AND TOURISM AUTHORITY**
Funds to Help Organization Build Ballpark for Special Needs Kids

SCOTTSDALE – The Miracle League of Arizona (MLAZ) will receive a \$250,000 grant from the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority to go toward construction costs of a baseball facility for special needs children. Late yesterday, members of the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority voted to award MLAZ the grant as part of its youth and amateur sports grant process.

“These funds are critical to our ability to break ground on this project and deliver this year a ballpark just for kids with special needs,” said Dan Haren Sr., Executive Director of MLAZ.

The facility, to be located at the corner of Frank Lloyd Wright and Via Linda in North Scottsdale, will be open to all special needs children in Arizona who want to play baseball in an organized Miracle League and is meant to provide players and their families with a gathering place for fun and friendship.

“There won’t be any fees for special needs kids who want to play baseball in this ballpark,” Haren said. “And it will be a place where they can come with their families, play a game, enjoy a picnic and eventually play in a special playground built just for them,” he added.

The ballpark, designed with input from several Arizona physicians, centers around a specially designed, rubberized playing field to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers and prevent injuries. In addition to the special playing surface, the ballpark will feature shaded grandstands, dugouts, concession and concourse areas, specially-equipped bathrooms & caregiver rooms, a scoreboard, lighting for night games, picnic areas and a playground.

Haren estimates the project will cost \$1.5 million, noting widespread corporate and community support is making the dream to build the park possible.

Major donors to date include: Arizona Diamondbacks, Scottsdale Unified School District, Hunt Construction, Summit Builders, Thunderbirds Charities, Charros Foundation, Dan and Jessica Haren, Ken Kendrick, State Compensation Fund Arizona, Arizona Contractors Association, City of Scottsdale, Harmon Killebrew Foundation, Doug Davis Foundation, Bill & Nicole Tsao, Nelsen Partners, McKesson Corporation and their employees.

“The community has been nothing short of overwhelming in its support through the donation of money, construction expertise, materials and equipment,” Haren said. “This is truly a Valley-wide effort that over the years will be enjoyed by tens of thousands of special needs kids who just want to play baseball,” he added.

Miracle League of Arizona is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, volunteer organization that is focused on developing and promoting facilities for special needs and adaptive recreation in the State of Arizona. MLAZ is affiliated with the National Miracle League Association, which promotes development of Miracle Leagues across the nation. MLAZ was founded in 2006 and is led by Frank Udvare, President of the Board of Directors, and Dan Haren Sr., Executive Director and father of Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Dan Haren Jr. For more information on Miracle League of Arizona, visit their website at www.mlaz.org