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News Release

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U.S. SOCCER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2006 GRANTS, BENEFITING 31 GROUPS, INCLUDING TWELVE *ALL CONDITIONS FIELDS* GRANTS

WASHINGTON, DC - The U.S. Soccer Foundation, the Major Charitable Arm of Soccer in the United States, today announced that it has made funds available to 31 separate groups nationwide, in 18 different states, as part of its 11th annual grants program cycle.

In total, the Foundation's grants will make more than \$1.7 million dollars available in the current year. Through its history, the Foundation has awarded over \$21 million to soccer groups and facilities through its annual grants program. Since 1995, the organization has made over \$40 million available for the growth of the game of soccer through grants and other financial support.

The Foundation, through its partnership with NikeGO, awarded 12 *All Conditions Fields* grants for the construction of full-size soccer fields that can be used around the clock, no matter the weather.

In addition, the Foundation awarded 13 grants for soccer development programs and six for programs with field enhancements and upgrades.

This year's grants focus was on proposals that develop players, referees, and coaches through programs, field enhancements or the Foundation's *All Conditions Fields* Program, with special emphasis on the economically disadvantaged in urban areas. The 2006 program grantees range from urban to rural, serving the inner cities of Baltimore, Boston, Oakland and Philadelphia, as well as smaller communities such as Brunswick, GA and Salinas, CA.

"We were pleased to achieve our major objectives for the 2006 grants program," said John Koskinen, President of the Foundation. "We continued to increase grassroots awareness of the Foundation's granting opportunities; and, for the first time, all grant documents were available in Spanish."

A highlight of the grant process each year is the designation of the *Alan I. Rothenberg Award* and the *Jim Hamilton Award*, special grants in honor of Foundation leaders whose stewardship has helped the Foundation succeed since its inception.

Named in honor of World Cup USA 1994 Chairman and current Foundation Board Member, the *Alan I. Rothenberg Award* was presented to Baltimore, Maryland's Parks & People Foundation, which supports an inner city middle school league.

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The *Jim Hamilton Award*, named for the current Foundation Board Member and the man who chaired the Foundation for its first nine years, was given to CityKicks, Inc. in Boston, MA. CityKicks will utilize the funding for player and field equipment credit to support the expansion of their existing girls' after-school, inner city soccer program.

The Foundation's Board of Directors has added a new designation to the grants program. In recognition of the fact that the Foundation is Major League Soccer's (MLS) charity of choice and is the recipient each season of all MLS player fines, one grant will be designated annually as the *MLS Players' Award*. This year, the grant is awarded to Newark Now in Newark, NJ, which brings soccer to low-income children in the city.

Since the first grants were made in the spring of 1995, the Foundation has issued 387 awards, including the 2006 recipients, to groups large and small in every corner of the nation. Of these, 143 were for soccer development programs, 203 for capital use and 41 as part of the All Conditions Fields initiative.

This year's 19 program and field enhancement grant recipients (alphabetical by state) were:

- Alabama Youth Soccer Association (Birmingham, AL)
- City of Morro Bay Parks & Recreation (Morro Bay, CA)
- Central American Refugee Committee (Oakland, CA)
- Salinas Valley Youth Soccer League (Salinas, CA)
- Quest for Excellence (Brunswick, GA)
- YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. (Decatur, GA)
- Inner City Soccer (Fort Wayne, IN)
- South Bend Weed & Seed Alliance, Inc. (South Bend, IN)
- *Parks & People Foundation (Baltimore, MD)
- **CityKicks, Inc. (Boston, MA)
- Mississippi Youth Soccer Association (Biloxi, MS)
- ***Newark Now (Newark, NJ)
- City of Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation (Rocky Mount, NC)
- Cape Fear Soccer Association, Inc. (Wilmington, NC)
- Blue Creek Conservation Area North (Whitehouse, OH)
- The Madeleine School (Portland, OR)
- Starfinder Foundation (Philadelphia, PA)
- Hays County, Texas - 5 Mile Soccer Complex (San Marco, TX)
- Greater Shawano Area Soccer Association for Youth (Shawano, WI)

* Alan I. Rothenberg Award
** Jim Hamilton Award
***MLS Players' Award

This year's 12 *All Conditions Fields* grant recipients (listed alphabetically by state), each of whom will receive a \$100,000 grant (\$50,000 of which is provided to the Foundation by its Partner NikeGO), were:

- Every Child Can Learn Foundation (San Francisco, CA)
- California State Polytechnic University (Pomona, CA)
- Arvada Soccer Association (Arvada, CO)
- Soccer In The Streets, Inc. (Atlanta, GA)
- Kansas State Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (Olathe, KS)
- Blackbear United Football Club (Bangor, ME)
- City of St. Louis, Missouri (St. Louis, MO)
- The City of Garfield (NJ) (Garfield, NJ)
- Town of Kearny (Kearny, NJ)
- Concordia University (Portland, OR)
- Pittsburgh Dynamo Youth Soccer Association (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Connellsville Soccer Club, Inc. (Connellsville, PA)

The Foundation's All Conditions Field Partners - in addition to NikeGO - include Ballard Sports, Clough Harbour Sports, FieldTurf, Kwik Goal, Musco Sports Lighting and TGI Systems. Ballard Sports and Clough Harbour Sports provide assistance in the initial planning, design and construction stages of a project. Musco Sports Lighting, the Foundation's National Partner for Sports Lighting, illuminates the all-weather, synthetic FieldTurf field. Kwik Goals—both full size sets and smaller sets for short-sided games—promote use by all ages. TGI Signage provides advertising to help generate additional revenue for a field.

The Foundation is led by Chairman Brad Hays (Corrales, NM), Vice Chairman Kevin Payne (Reston, Virginia), Treasurer Charles Marshall (Beaverton, OR) and Secretary Ed Foster-Simeon (Woodbridge, Virginia). The headquarters are in Washington, DC, where President John A. Koskinen and his management team carry out the Foundation's mission.

The U.S. Soccer Foundation was established in 1994 to manage the surplus funds generated by the 1994 FIFA World Cup held in the United States. Under the guidance of its Board of Directors, the Foundation has taken a leading role in supporting the continuous development of the sport at all levels. Over \$40 million in grants, financial support and loans have been made to help develop a soccer nation. The Foundation has provided 387 grants focused on developing players, coaches and referees and building or enhancing fields and soccer complexes, with a special emphasis on economically disadvantaged urban areas. For more information, or to donate online, please visit: ussoccerfoundation.org.

Media Request: When referring to the U.S. Soccer Foundation, the Major Charitable Arm of Soccer in the United States, please refer to the organization only as the U.S. Soccer Foundation or the Foundation, and never as USSF or US/U.S. Soccer. We appreciate your cooperation.

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