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The Friends of Grant Athletics Raise an Additional \$315,000 for Fields Improvement Project
NIKE, Inc., City of Portland and Juan Young Trust are among new major donors as NE Portland nonprofit group remains committed to vision for Grant Park

PORTLAND, Ore., June 15, 2011 – The Friends of Grant Athletics (FGA), a northeast Portland nonprofit, announced today that they have secured an additional \$315,000 in new grants since last month for the Grant Fields Improvement Project, a capital campaign for the renovation of athletic fields at U.S. Grant Park and Grant High School.

These new grants from NIKE, Inc., the City of Portland and the Juan Young Trust mark a significant milestone for the organization. With strong fundraising efforts since September 2010, to date FGA has raised more than \$700,000 in contributions and pledges toward the project—more than half coming from the Grant community. Funds raised have been in the form of private donations and grants.

“We are extremely grateful for the continued overwhelming support from the Grant community in propelling the Grant Fields Improvement Projects forward,” said Lloyd Lindley, FGA president. “As our capital campaign continues through the summer and fall, we are committed to bringing together the corporate and private sector giving communities to bring our vision for Grant Park athletic fields to fruition.”

Friends of Grant Athletics’ vision is to provide safer, more playable fields to Grant High School athletes, community sports teams and youth sports organizations. Synthetic all-weather turf fields will enable year-round athletic activity for Grant High School athletes, who are permitted to play there 30 percent of the allowable time, and community sports teams have permits to play 70 percent of the time. The new fields can promote better health of children and adult athletes by creating all-weather and safer playing conditions.

Demonstrating support of this vision, the following entities have recently contributed the following:

- **NIKE, Inc.:** Awarded FGA a \$200,000 grant, making the company the largest corporate donor to date.
- **City of Portland:** With the strong advocacy of Commissioner Nick Fish, Portland City Council allocated \$100,000 to the project as part of the city’s support for improved sports fields in Portland, particularly fields located on or adjacent to high school facilities. This is part of a continuing effort to leverage public /private partnerships to improve sports fields across the city.

- **The Juan Young Trust:** Granted FGA \$15,000 toward the Grant Fields Improvement Project. Established in 2000, Juan Young awards grants to nonprofit organizations based in Oregon for projects and activities to enhance the health, education and welfare of children under the age of 21 years old.

NIKE , Inc., The City of Portland and The Juan Young Trust join the ranks of other notable donors to the Grant Fields Improvement Project including Legacy Children’s Hospital and Portland Public Schools (PPS). Part of the “Places for Sport Initiative,” FGA was awarded \$91,000 in 2010 from the Portland Public School Great Fields Fund.

As these recent donations have generated new momentum for the Grant Fields Improvement Project, FGA has also adjusted the scope of its capital campaign in light of challenging economic conditions and the recent defeat of the Portland Public Schools bond.

In an effort to achieve success within the current giving environment, FGA has established a new fundraising direction for the reconstruction of two fields in Grant Park and a combined soccer and baseball field at Grant High School. With a new initial fundraising goal of \$1.9 million in total, the project will be executed in two phases. Phase one will consist of the reconstruction of the Grant bowl, which includes the Mark Cotton field and a resurfaced track, and a renovation of the natural turf on Hollywood Field.

By addressing the Grant bowl in phase one, FGA has the ability to better serve a greater percentage of Grant High School athletes and NE Portland community members engaging in a wider range of activities—including football, soccer, track and field, lacrosse and Little League baseball. FGA’s goal is to commence reconstruction of the bowl in the spring of 2012, with an estimated completion date of fall 2012.

Phase two of the Grant Fields Improvement Project will include the reconstruction of the upper Grant High School soccer field and combined baseball field. Estimated completion of phase two will be determined upon completion of phase one.

In addition to recalibrating project scope, FGA has also recently elected three new members to its board of directors, including Eric von Arx, alumni/schools representative; Bill Malloch, capital campaign lead; and Lauren Stilwell, communications lead. For more information about the Friends of Grant Athletics or to make a donation, please visit www.friendsofgrant.org.

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About The Friends of Grant Athletics

The Friends of Grant Athletics (FGA) is a nonprofit (501C3) organization that spearheads the Grant Fields Improvement Project, a fundraising effort to renovate Grant High School and Grant Park community fields. The Grant Fields Improvement project began in 1999, marking the beginning of planning, community involvement and approvals of field improvements. In May 2010, after negotiations with the city, school district and the local neighborhood association, Portland City Council and the Portland School Board unanimously adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), forming a partnership between the Friends of Grant Athletics, Portland Parks & Recreation and Portland Public Schools. The MOU authorized Friends of Grant Athletics to raise funds to renovate the fields including three new artificial turf fields, a resurfaced track and other park improvements. For more information, please visit www.friendsofgrant.org , become a fan on [Facebook](#) or follow FGA news on [Twitter](#).