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Media Contact:

Lauren Stilwell

Friends of Grant Athletics

Phone: 503-314-7112

Email: laurenstilwell@gmail.com

The Friends of Grant Athletics Bolster Financial and Community Support for Fields Project

New donors and recent fundraising events move community group closer to phase one goal for field reconstruction

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 20, 2011 – The Friends of Grant Athletics (FGA), a northeast Portland nonprofit, announced today that they have raised nearly half of the funds needed to complete the first phase of the Grant Fields Improvement Project, a capital campaign for the renovation of athletic fields at U.S. Grant Park and Grant High School.

Recent donor activity has provided a boost to the campaign, as the FGA has now raised more than \$800,000 towards its goal of \$1.9 million for the reconstruction of the Grant bowl and Hollyrood Field as part of phase one. Raising more than \$100,000 since June alone, the group is now looking to the Portland business community to help make its vision for Grant Park a reality.

“We are urging local businesses who benefit from strong schools and cohesive communities to be involved in this project to ensure that young people from grade school through high school have facilities that will enable them to thrive while gaining the health benefits of a safe place to play,” said Lloyd Lindley, FGA president. “We are confident that with business community support, we can bring this project to fruition.”

New Donors Drive Fundraising Momentum

- An anonymous donor granted \$50,000 to FGA in November for the Grant Fields Improvement Project.
- United Finance, a local, family-owned consumer finance company with 24 branches in Oregon, Washington and Nevada, contributed \$10,000 toward the Project. Through the R. H. Parker/United Foundation, the Company, which was founded in 1922, has supported Grant Football and youth athletics for more than a decade. For more information about United Finance, visit <http://www.unitedfinance.com/main.aspx>

Fall Fundraising Events Unite the Grant Community

In addition to securing new financial contributions, the FGA hosted fall and winter fundraising events to rally community support for the Grant Fields project and raise additional funds. The First Annual Oktoberfest, held in Grant Park on October 1, garnered more than 520 participants in the 3K, 5K and kid’s run, with a resulting \$7,000 raised towards the project.

Most recently, FGA and the Beaumont Foundation held its second annual Thanksgiving Break Futsal (indoor soccer) event Nov. 21-23. During the event, children were divided into groups according to skill level to play pick up soccer games. With strong participation from the community, FGA and the Beaumont Foundation collectively raised \$4,000 benefiting both groups.

The Friends of Grant Athletics and the Beaumont Foundation are hosting their next Futsal event— Winter Futsal 2011—from December 19-21 and December 27-28 at Beaumont Middle School for children ages 6-14. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Grant Fields Improvement Project, the Beaumont Foundation and the Beaumont PTA. For more information and to sign up for the event, please visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EADAD2CA75-winter1>.

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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 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 about the project, please visit www.friendsofgrant.org, or the Portland Parks & Recreation Web site at <http://www.portlandonline.com/parks/index.cfm?c=53997>. You can also become a fan on [Facebook](#) or follow FGA news on [Twitter](#).