



October 20, 2011

MLSE TEAM UP FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 2 YEARS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT THANKS TO DONORS

The MLSE Team Up Foundation held a breakfast event at e11even restaurant to celebrate the tangible impact it has made since its inception in 2009. “As an organization whose vision is to change lives through the spirit and the power of sports, the MLSE Team Up Foundation is in a unique position to strengthen community engagement and belonging through sports.” remarked Michael Bartlett, Executive Director of the MLSE Team Up Foundation.

Thanks to its donors, \$4.5 million has been invested back into the community over the past 2 years impacting thousands of lives. Highlights from the 16 refurbished facilities include:

- more than \$1 million invested in 9 GTA rink refurbishments including Angela James Arena
- building Variety Village’s 6,000 members a new \$120,000 centre court to FIBA specifications;
- transforming St. James Town’s basketball court into a safe and welcoming recreational & community gathering space for its 15,000 residents;
- refurbishing G. Ross Lord and Sorauren Park soccer pitches servicing 3 youth leagues and over 200 teams.

Through \$2.5 million in programming grants to our charitable partners, children of all abilities have been given access to essential sports and recreation. Examples of the tangible impact include:

- providing more than 230 underserved youth the opportunity to play organized sport;
- funding Right to Play’s first Toronto-based program, *Youth to Youth* at 20 schools reaching 2,000 students and training 350 youth leaders;
- helping Special Olympics increase their number of school-based participants to 7,940 athletes – allowing them to travel, compete and to gain new life experiences.

According to Bruce Kidd, Chair of the MLSE Team Up Foundation, “through targeted investments, disadvantaged youth can be helped through sports and recreation programming. Participation can be linked to transferable skills, knowledge and opportunities for education and employment.”

Guests were also treated to a preview of the Foundation’s plans for the upcoming year. In the next 12 months, the MLSE Team Up Foundation plans to invest 2.5 million into its refurbishment, granting and ticket programs. Partnerships with the City of Toronto, Toronto Community Housing and others will help to contribute to the refurbishment of 8 more facilities: 4 rinks, 3 courts and at 1 pitch.

-MORE-

MLSE Team Up Foundation Celebrates

Next month the new Team Up Foundation Fund grant program will be announced. Charitable organizations in Ontario that are in need of funding for a specific youth program or facility refurbishment that will impact a community in a positive way can compete for funding through an online competition. Contestants will submit applications along with photos or video online in an effort to receive one of four \$50,000 grants.

Fans and donors have the opportunity to continue their support of the Foundation by purchasing a ticket to the upcoming Leafs Have-a-Heart Dinner presented by AM640 on Tuesday, November 29th. Join the entire Leafs roster and their spouses as they serve up delicious food and drink at Earth Bloor West.

On January 4th, families are encouraged to help the MLSE Team Up Foundation celebrate the refurbishment of the Sunnydale rink completed with the support of RONA. The Toronto Maple Leafs will hold an outdoor practice at the community rink. This is a free event; all are encouraged to join the Foundation at this public event.

About the Organization

MLSE Team Up Foundation is the charitable arm of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE), combining the philanthropic efforts of all four MLSE-owned teams – the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors, Toronto FC and Toronto Marlies. Launched in December 2009 the Foundation strives to improving the lives of youth by building facilities, giving to sustainable programs and empowering youth through sports and recreation. For information visit www.mlseteamupfoundation.org

Media Contact: Alicia Erz, MLSE Team Up Foundation, (416) 815-6103