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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Robert P. Thomas Youth Recreation Endowment Fund makes it possible for 120 deserving youth to experience organized sports**

**Sacramento, California, November 7, 2008**—The Department of Parks and Recreation recently announced that the Robert P. Thomas Youth Recreation Endowment Fund has selected city-wide, youth sports programs as recipients of its 2008 fund disbursement. The disbursement allows 120 youth whose families cannot afford the expenses associated with local football and basketball programs to acquire the experiences, life-lessons, and values that come with participation in organized sports.

In an exceptionally tough economic climate, the disbursement, along with a match from the City of Sacramento, will mean that the parents of 120 low-income youth will not have to shoulder the financial burden of paying registration fees, purchasing uniforms and equipment, and paying for family members to attend season-ending, team awards banquets.

The Robert P. Thomas Youth Recreation Endowment Fund was established in 2005 with the goal of providing meaningful recreation opportunities for youth who are members of low-income families or communities. The Fund was established by Robert P. Thomas, who served in multiple positions during his tenure with the City of Sacramento, including Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Deputy City Manager, and City Manager.

"I am honored to represent my family in this inaugural allocation of the Robert P. Thomas Youth Recreation Endowment Fund," said Keri Thomas. "Recreation has always been an important part of my family's life and we could not be happier to be partnering with the City of Sacramento to make recreation available to the youth of our community."

The Fund's disbursement and City match totals \$2,560. The funds are disbursed with the assistance of staff within the Department who understand the needs of youth sports programs and also appreciate the enormous impact that any level of financial support can have on the lives of youth.

The Robert P. Thomas Youth Recreation Endowment Fund plans to make regular disbursements in line with its mission of providing Sacramento's youth with the resources to participate in meaningful recreation and sports programs.

Media-related inquires can be forwarded to Hindolo Brima, Media and Communications Specialist, Department of Parks and Recreation, at (916) 808-5972.

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