

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Orthotic & Prosthetic Assistance Fund (OPAF) and First Volley Adaptive Tennis One of 38 Community Organizations Nationwide To Receive USTA Grant**

Langhorne, Pennsylvania – October 20, 2009 – The USTA today announced that OPAF and First Volley Adaptive Tennis have been awarded a Program/Project Support Grant. The grant, in the amount of \$ 4000.00, is one of 38 grants awarded by the USTA which total \$234,000, to go along with seven Community Partnership Investment Grants which totaled \$187,500.

The grants are designed to support community based organizations who are seeking funding to support their general tennis programming, project and equipment needs. The organizations that were selected met the following criteria: increasing tennis participation, supporting tennis programming and fostering diversity with both participation and programming.

“We are excited to announce our second round of grants totaling over \$400,000. This investment will help organizations that are dedicated to using tennis as a vehicle to improve the quality of life and education for both children and adults alike,” said Kurt Kamperman, Chief Executive, Community Tennis, USTA. “These organizations are committed to growing the game of tennis by implementing important local programming such as the Quick Start Tennis play format and Jr. Team Tennis, and the USTA is proud to be able to assist them in their efforts.”

OPAF and First Volley Tennis provide adaptive tennis skills and drills for amputees and those with physical challenges. This grant funding will allow OPAF to bring First Volley clinics to two amputee children’s camps and to the University of North Carolina-Wilmington Accessible Recreation Day. First Volley is the flagship program of OPAF, along with First Swim, First Dive Intro to Scuba, First Swing and in 2009, McKeever’s First Ride, a therapeutic horsemanship program aimed at amputees.

“We are thrilled with the opportunity to take First Volley to those in need of adaptive tennis across the country. The USTA Recreational Grant Funding means that children and adults who want to try tennis and choose not to sit in a wheelchair can have quality adaptive tennis aimed directly towards them” said Robin Burton, OPAF Executive Director.

All grants ranged from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and are offered on a one-time basis.

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OPAF, the Orthotic and Prosthetic Assistance Fund, located in Langhorne, PA, serves as the Official Philanthropy of the US Orthotic and Prosthetic Community as a 501 (c) (3) public charity. OPAF’s primary mission is enabling individuals served by the orthotic and prosthetic community to enjoy the rewards of personal achievement, physical fitness and social interaction. OPAF develops, implements, partners and hosts adaptive recreational sports programs and clinics for amputees and those with physical challenges through the First Clinics and helps this population return to a sport or activity that they may have thought literally taken away from them. For more information, please visit [www.opfund.org](http://www.opfund.org).

The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level -- from local communities to the highest level of the professional

game. A not-for-profit organization with 730,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. It owns and operates the US Open, the highest attended annual sporting event in the world, and launched the Olympus US Open Series linking 10 summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns the 94 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S., is a minority owner and promotional partner of World TeamTennis, and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USTA philanthropic entity, USTA Serves, provides grants and scholarships and through tennis, helps underserved youth and people with disabilities to improve academics, build character and strive for excellence. For more information on the USTA, log on to [usta.com](http://usta.com).