

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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## **First Volley for Shriners Philadelphia a Smashing Success**

February 7, 2012 – Waterloo, Iowa – First Volley Adaptive Tennis Clinic and Shriners Hospital for Children/Philadelphia partnered once again for an outstanding afternoon event of adaptive tennis. The clinic, held at Cherry Hill Racquet Club in Cherry Hill, New Jersey saw over 31 participants and more than 65 attendees enjoy a two hour clinic of tennis skills and drills developed especially for the physically challenged population. Amputees as well as kids with cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury or scoliosis were there, along with their brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors to create an inclusive environment for adaptive sport play. Attendees traveled from as far as Maryland, Virginia and New York to be part of the OPAF event, underwritten with grant funding from the United States Tennis Association philanthropic arm, USTA Serves.

The clinic was led by First Volley Director of Tennis, Darren Kindred, PTR and assisted by First Volley instructor, Tom Cooper, as well as area tennis coach, Carol MacLennan. Also joining us for the day were staff and support from Shriners as well as representatives from the Shrine organizations in both PA and NJ and Shrine Clowns. Also in attendance was Marshall Cohen, Amputee Coalition's Chairman of the Board, along with parents, grandparents, media and volunteers. Prizes and giveaways, refreshments and fun were all part of the day.

“First Volley has changed my son's idea of sports. He loves tennis and goes to summer camp every year” said Lisa Lavanga, mother of Mike Lavanga, age 15.

This was the sixth year in a row that OPAF and The First Clinics has partnered with Shriners Hospital – Philadelphia. There are plans to bring McKeever's First Ride to Shriners Philadelphia for spring 2012. An adaptive sport offered at no cost to any attendee is our goal.

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