

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Shriners First Volley™ a Success in Philadelphia

Langhorne, Pa – May 7, 2007 – Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia and the Orthotic & Prosthetic Assistance Fund, Inc. (OPAF) hosted a First Volley™ Adaptive Tennis Clinic for Shriners O & P patients on Saturday, May 5 at the Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis Center and was a smashing success! Eleven children, both amputees and those affected by Cerebral Palsy, along with support staff from Arthur Ashe, volunteers, First Volley veterans and a USTA Master Teaching Pro were put through their paces with tennis drills and showed what kind of tennis players they can be.

The clinic, lead by First Volley's Director of Tennis, Darren Kindred, and assisted by USTA Master Teaching Pro, Kirk Anderson and support staff from Arthur Ashe gave the Shriners kids, ages 6-14, individual attention and schooling in forehand, backhand, volleys and serves. They moved across the court and in some cases hit them "out of the park" to help boost confidence and build esteem. Over twenty-five attendees and volunteers were on hand to cheer them on.

First Volley was sponsored by Shriners Hospital for Children and hosted at the premier facilities of the Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis Center in Philadelphia. "We are so pleased with OPAF and First Volley", said Jeff Eichhorn CPO, Shriners Hospital Director of Orthotic and Prosthetics. "We can envision one or two First Volley clinics a year for our patients. The facilities at Arthur Ashe were great!" Many of these children will play again on Saturday, May 19 when OPAF hosts a First Volley clinic at the Bucks County Racquet Club in Washington Crossing, PA from 4-7 PM. First Volley is offered free of charge to all participants and is made possible in part by a grant from the United States Tennis Association Tennis and Education Foundation.

If you would like to host a First Volley clinic for your patients and your community, please contact OPAF Executive Director, Robin Burton, for more details. OPAF continues our mission of bringing recreational sports programs that promote health and fitness to those served by the O & P community and continue "*Giving Wings to Dreams*®"!

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