# TENNESSEE TITANS COMMIT $80,000 TO UPGRADE COMMUNITY FOOTBALL FIELDS IN NASHVILLE AND DICKSON

***Awards Are Part of $2.4 Million in New Grants to Athletic Fields Nationwide***

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**NASHVILLE, TN (January 25, 2007) –** Four community football fields in Nashville and Dickson County will be upgraded, thanks in part to $80,000 in grants from the NFL Grassroots field grant program, it was announced today.

The grants, awarded by the Tennessee Titans, National Football League, NFL Players Association (NFLPA) and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), are part of $2.4 million in field refurbishment awards allocated this year to community groups in 20 cities nationwide. Since 1999, a total of $355,000 in NFL Grassroots refurbishment grants have been applied to community fields in the greater Nashville area.

"The Tennessee Titans are proud to continue to support local projects that improve fields, football development and bring families and communities together through football," said Titans Owner K.S. "Bud" Adams, Jr. "Football has enjoyed a great tradition in Tennessee for more than 100 years and I am pleased that our partnership for this grant program will continue to build upon that tradition."

The NFL Grassroots program is funded by the NFL Youth Football Fund (YFF), a non-profit foundation established by the NFL and the NFLPA to support the game at the youth level and promote positive youth development. Since 1998, the NFL Grassroots program has provided more than $17 million to help community organizations build, or rebuild, 155 youth fields in more than 40 cities, typically in neighborhoods where funding sources are few and far between.

Two Nashville middle schools, Ewing Park and Dalewood, will share a $60,000 grant awarded to The Nashville Alliance for Public Education, in partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools. The funds will be utilized for capital improvements at those two schools. Upgrades at the Ewing Park and Dalewood will include an ADA sidewalk, bleachers, repairs to the press box, refurbished goal posts and security fencing.

"There is no more important endeavor than that of education," states Kay Simmons, Executive Director of the Nashville Alliance. "Therefore, we are proud that Bud Adams and the Titans, as well as the NFL, have taken a such leadership role in addressing the needs of student athletes and advancing opportunities for youth in our community. "

The Dickson County School District will utilize a $20,000 NFL Grassroots grant to upgrade the irrigation systems at Creek Wood High School and William James Middle School,
The irrigation system at Creek Wood High School is currently controlled at three locations. Unfortunately, these locations have been susceptible to lightning strike surges that have occurred over the past four years, destroying the controller components on each occasion. These two fields are home to eight youth football leagues at three different age levels.

“This is exciting news for us,” said Charles Daniel, Dickson County Director of Schools. “The grant allows us to address some problems we've had for some time. A tight budget often forces us to patch things instead of really fixing them. This allows us to do it right. We are so grateful to Mr. Bud Adams, the Titans organization and the other grant partners.”

“These fields are a critical part of our efforts to create sustainable communities – places where people want to live, work and raise families,” said Michael Rubinger, LISC’s president and CEO. “Through their contributions, the NFL and NFLPA are not only creating places for young people to compete in football and other sports, they’re also making countless neighborhoods better and stronger.”

Gene Upshaw, the NFLPA’s executive director, agrees. “The NFL and the NFLPA are proud to assist communities where young people aspire to play football,” he said. “This program allows us to make an immediate impact in neighborhoods where assistance is most needed.”

Other communities receiving NFL Grassroots awards during this funding round are: Baltimore, MD; Brooklyn, NY; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Detroit, MI; Durham, NC; East St. Louis, IL; Hollywood, FL; Houston, TX; Indianapolis, IN; Jacksonville, FL: Kansas City, MO; Newark, NJ: Phoenix, AZ; Providence, RI; St. Paul, MN; San Diego, CA; and Seattle, WA.

**About The NFL Youth Football Fund**

Established in 1998 by the NFL and the NFLPA, the NFL Youth Football Fund seeks to use football as a catalyst to promote positive youth development, support youth and high school football needs nationwide and also ensure the health of grassroots football in future generations. Through the YFF, many youth football initiatives and support programs have been developed, providing youngsters with opportunities to learn the game of football, get physically fit and stay involved in productive after-school activities with adult mentors.

Innovative and effective youth football programs have resulted from teaming with organizations like LISC on the NFL Grassroots program. The YFF also supports the National Youth Football Partners which include the Amateur Athletic Union, American Youth Football, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Jewish Community Centers Association, National Police Athletic League, National Recreation & Park Association, Pop Warner Little Scholars and YMCA of the USA. Additionally, the NFL and NFLPA endowed USA Football, a non-profit organization created to help youth football organizations keep the sport fun, safe and accessible. It provides resources focused on youth league enhancement, coaching education, officiating development and health and safety awareness.

**About LISC**

LISC combines corporate, government and philanthropic resources to help nonprofit community development corporations revitalize underserved neighborhoods. Since 1980, LISC has raised more than $7.1 billion to build or rehab nearly 196,000 affordable homes and develop 27 million square feet of retail, community and educational space nationwide. For more information, visit www.lisc.org.

**About The Nashville Alliance for Public Education**

The Nashville Alliance for Public Education is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) foundation whose mission is to align private support for public education. The Nashville Alliance is the vehicle for all private sector gifts to Metro Nashville Public Schools. Since its inception, Nashville Alliance has raised more than $5 million for Nashville Public Schools.

**About The Metro Nashville Public School System**

The Metro Nashville Public School System manages 134 schools, serving 74,000 students. Over the past several years, the Metro Schools Business and Facilities Office has planned, managed, implemented and supervised more than $250 million in capital improvements projects for Metro Nashville Public Schools.

**About Dickson County School District**

Dickson County school system serves more than 8,000 students in grades K-12 at 15 sites, including eight elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, an alternative school and an adult high school. The athletic fields at Creek Wood High School and William James Middle School are used not only for school recreation programs, but also for community youth football. The two fields currently host eight youth football teams at three different levels.

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