October 19, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

Miracle Field Dedication Friday, Oct. 21

The Rotary Club of Springfield North and the Springfield–Greene County Park Board have partnered together, along with other community donors and organizations, to build a baseball/softball field for children and young adults with physical challenges. The Dedication Ceremony will be held at 10 am, Friday, October 21st, 2011, at Dan Kinney Park, 2071 Blackman Road in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.

Through major fundraising efforts, more than $313,000 was raised for the construction of the Miracle League field. Under guidelines established by the National Miracle League Association, the field will have a special playing surface allowing easy access for wheelchairs, individuals using walkers or anyone who finds it difficult to walk due to health issues and/or blindness.

Joe Stokes, a Rotary Club of Springfield North member, worked to partner with key Park Board personnel and the Board of Directors in the fund-raising efforts. "We believe this field will be a major step towards Rotary's goal of making dreams real. This field gives children and young adults who have disabling health conditions a chance to play baseball or softball on a field built just for them," Stokes said.

Local organizations that work with the physically challenged have indicated that hundreds of children and young adults in Springfield and surrounding communities will utilize the field, according to the Rotary Club and the Park Board.

Michele Smith, two-time Olympic Gold Medalist for USA Softball, along with retired Major League pitcher, Springfield City Councilman Scott Bailes, will join the ceremony to dedicate the field.

The field, located at the new Dan Kinney Park on Blackman Road in southeast Springfield, is one-third the size of a standard field. The Park Board will administer the use of the field.

Rotary International is the world's first service club organization. Its more than 1.2 million members volunteer their time to further the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." Go to www.rotary.org for more information.

More than 6 million people used Greene County parks on a daily basis last year. Visit www.parkboard.org for more information about programs, activities, facilities, and events.

For more information about the National Miracle League Association, go to www.miracleleague.com.
For more information about the Dedication Ceremony, contact Jodie Adams, Director of Parks or Bob Belote, Assistant Director of Parks at 417-864-1049.