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**Miracle League of San Diego to Launch Fall 2009 Season with  
Fan Fest on Saturday, Sept. 26**

*Online Registration Now Underway for Participants in  
Home Run Derby Fundraiser – Dialing Long Distance for Miracle League*

**SAN DIEGO** – September 11, 2009 – The Miracle League of San Diego (MLSD), a charitable organization that provides children with mental and physical disabilities the opportunity to play team baseball in an organized league, will kick off its fall season with a Fan Fest celebration on Saturday, Sept. 26. More than 145 children with disabilities, along with their families, friends and fans are expected to participate in the event, which will be highlighted by the MLSD’s Home Run Derby Fundraiser – Dialing Long Distance for Miracle League.

“This is the Miracle League’s sixth season in the past three years and we couldn’t be more proud of these amazing children and their families,” said Dan Engel, Founder and President of the Board of Directors of the MLSD. “We’re asking the local community to get involved by coming to Fan Fest and participating in the Home Run Derby Fundraiser. It’s a fun and easy way to show our players the support they need and deserve.”

In the home run derby, Miracle League sluggers, coaches, family, friends and fans will compete in seven divisions to “dial long distance for Miracle League” and earn long-ball bragging rights. The registration fee is \$20, with all proceeds benefiting the MLSD. Participants are encouraged to obtain sponsors to pledge donations for each home run hit to maximize fundraising.

Participants can register online and additional sponsorship opportunities can be found at [www.miracleleagueofsandiego.org](http://www.miracleleagueofsandiego.org).

Fan Fest will include an appearance by the San Diego Padres Swingin' Friar and the Pad Squad and will also feature a variety of memorable moments for the children involved, including a special opening ceremony emceed by Channel 4 San Diego's John Weisbarth in which players on the ten Miracle League baseball teams will be introduced liked the pros. In addition, similar to their big league heroes, the Miracle Leaguers will have their own press tables where they will give media interviews and sign autographs for the fans in attendance.

Festivities begin at 10 a.m. at Engel Family Field at San Dieguito County Park, in Del Mar. Free ball park food and beverages will be available through the generous donation of culinary support from Saint Vincent De Paul.

The fall 2009 MLSD season runs every Saturday through Nov. 21, 2009 and is made possible only by the help of volunteers. Nearly 180 buddies, 40 coaches and at least 50 other regular volunteers pitch in each week to supply and operate the snack bar, umpire, pitch and sell concessions. Volunteers are still needed for a variety of positions.

### **About the Miracle League of San Diego**

MLSD provides children with mental or physical challenges an opportunity to play baseball as a team member in an organized league believing that "every child deserves a chance to play baseball." In a unique public/non-profit partnership with the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, and with the support of the San Diego Padres, MLSD built the first ADA accessible ball field of its kind in Southern California. The field surface is a flat cushioned rubber mat that ensures that children with disabilities can safely and successfully play baseball. Upgrades include an electronic scoreboard and state-of-the-art PA system that provide Miracle Leaguers a unique experience. Since launching in May 2007, MLSD operates two baseball seasons every year, with the spring season generally running from March through May and fall from September through November. For more information visit [www.miracleleagueofsandiego.org](http://www.miracleleagueofsandiego.org).