

BUFFALO SABRES, ALUMNI HELP CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF MIRACLE LEAGUE FIELD

BUFFALO, N.Y. (August 30, 2011) – The Buffalo Sabres and the Buffalo Sabres Alumni Association today announced that both organizations will be on hand to help celebrate the completion of the Miracle League of Western New York Field Presented by the Buffalo Sabres, a baseball field and complex designed for children with disabilities.

After each organization donated \$75,000 for the construction of the complex, Sabres President Ted Black, Head Coach Lindy Ruff and members of past and present Sabres teams will be in attendance on Aug. 30, 2011 at 2 p.m. The celebration at the complex, which is located in Grand Island's Veteran's Park, will include a one-inning baseball game with the Sabres representatives playing alongside 36 participants of the Miracle League, ranging in age from 5 years old to 42 years old.

The complex will serve as the playing field for The Miracle League of Grand Island & WNY, the local chapter of the nationally organized Miracle League, which provides the opportunity for disabled athletes from around the country to play organized baseball. Besides a specially designed playing surface, the complex features a concession stand and bathrooms that are wheelchair accessible.

Fundraising for the field began in July 2010 and quickly attracted the attention of the Sabres, the Sabres Alumni, the Town of Grand Island and several other corporate sponsors, all of whom donated time, money and resources to build the complex. Members of the Buffalo Sabres Alumni Foundation were on hand in April 2011 for the groundbreaking and construction was completed four months later, well ahead of the one to two years it usually takes for a project of this kind.

"We are extremely thankful for the support from the Buffalo Sabres and the Buffalo Sabres Alumni, not only for their donation but also for their involvement in our organization," said Teresa Hooper, the president of the Miracle League of Grand Island and Western New York. "It means a lot to our players and volunteers to have their heroes cheer them on and show their support."

"Our volunteers were excited to find Larry Playfair working in the mud and stone right along with us on a daily basis, as well as Rene Robert helping with construction and staining of the picnic tables," Hooper added.

Both the Sabres, through its Buffalo Sabres Foundation, and the Sabres Alumni Association are committed to providing support to non-profit organizations in the Western New York area that are dedicated to making the region a better place to live and work.

"We're always looking to help worthwhile organizations that share the same beliefs about making our community a better place for everyone," said Playfair, President of the Sabres Alumni Association. "The Miracle League of Grand Island & WNY will be making sports available to everyone, regardless of their ability, and we think that's very important. We're thrilled to be a part of this project."

The official opening of the Miracle League Field of Western New York Field Presented by the Buffalo Sabres will be on Sept. 11, when the Miracle League of WNY will host an open house at the complex from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and tour the facilities, as well as find out how to get involved with the league.

For more information on the Miracle League of Western New York, please visit www.miracleleaguewny.org.