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News Release

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BEYOND THE BELL RECEIVES HALF MILLION DOLLAR GRANT **LA84 Foundation's generous support to fund middle school sports programs**

LOS ANGELES – Beyond the Bell Branch (BTB) proudly announces it has received a \$500,000 grant from the LA84 Foundation. This is the fifth-consecutive year that the LA84 Foundation awarded Beyond the Bell a grant for implementing after-school sports programs at all middle schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Beyond the Bell was one of many applicants, and this generous gift represents the largest donation the LA84 Foundation made to any organization this year. The organization recognized BTB for the quality and expansive reach of its middle school sports program.

Alvaro Cortes, executive director of the Beyond the Bell Branch said, "Few organizations have been as committed as the LA84 Foundation to improving the lives of children. In these tough fiscal times for LAUSD and Beyond the Bell, we are grateful to the LA84 Foundation for their continued confidence and support."

Through the foundation's grants, Beyond the Bell has provided, free-of-charge, after-school sports programs to approximately 15,000 LAUSD middle school students annually. The grants also allowed Beyond the Bell to hire after-school coaches to implement sports programs at all LAUSD middle schools. A portion of these funds also gave Beyond the Bell an opportunity to purchase much needed sports equipment and uniforms for participating students.

"It is gratifying that 28 years after the success of the Los Angeles Olympic Games, the LA84 Foundation, the legacy of those Games, continues to make an important difference in the lives of local youngsters," said LA84 Foundation President Anita L. DeFrantz. "With fewer and fewer options available for youngsters to stay active and fit, it is imperative that all of us support the efforts that are providing girls and boys with the opportunity to play sports."

Beyond the Bell thanks the LA84 Foundation for its continued commitment to the youth of Los Angeles. BTB also recognizes the staff members directly involved in the creation of the partnership with the LA Foundation for their hard work.

The mission of the Beyond the Bell Branch is to ensure that all children and youth in LAUSD have access to high quality, safe, and supervised academic, enrichment, and recreation programs that inspire learning and achievement beyond the regular school day. Every child and youth should have a safe place to be in the presence of a responsible, caring adult with engaging activities that support achievement and promote social, emotional, physical development beyond the regular school day.