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 CONTACT: Jolyn de Boer, 843-686-3036

TOP 50 TENNIS WELCOME CENTER FACILITIES RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN PROMOTING SPORT

Facilities lauded for taking a proactive role delivering tennis across the U.S.

Hilton Head, S.C.—The "Top 50 Tennis Welcome Centers of 2008" have been recognized by the Tennis Industry Association, U.S. Tennis Association and the trade magazine *Racquet Sports Industry* as leading the charge in the growth of the sport by providing well-rounded programs to new and current players of all ages and abilities. The tennis facilities honored all exhibited excellent participation figures involving new and returning players, support of industry programs and community tennis development, and were active with Tennis Welcome Center facility requirements, among other criteria.

"All of the more than 2,500 Tennis Welcome Centers have played a key role in the increased tennis participation we've seen in the last few years in the U.S.," says TIA Executive Director Jolyn de Boer. "These Top 50 Tennis Welcome Centers have been doing an exemplary job of creating a positive tennis experience for people in their communities. Tennis Welcome Centers serve a vital role in delivering tennis. The TIA, together with the USTA, is very pleased to recognize these efforts with this award."

"Tennis teaching professionals, facility

TOP 50 TENNIS WELCOME CENTERS OF 2008 in alphabetical order by facility name

- Annapolis Area Tennis School Annapolis, MD
- Arlington Tennis Center Arlington, TX
- Bay Tennis and Fitness Harbor Springs, MI
- Bluegrass Yacht & Country Club Hendersonville, TN
- Cary Tennis Park Cary, NC
- Center Court Youth Tennis Association Arnaudville, LA
- Circle C Tennis Club Austin, TX
- Columbia Basin Racquet Club Richland, WA
- Cooper Creek Tennis Center Columbus, GA
- Cooper Tennis Complex Springfield, MO
- Copamarina Tennis Guanica, Puerto Rico
- CTA of East Williston, Wheatley, & Carle Place Williston Park, NY
- Delaware Tennis Center Wilmington, DE
- Dunnigan Family YMCA Evansville, IN
- Family Circle Tennis Center Charleston, SC
- Greenville Country Club Greenville, MS
- Hamilton Family YMCA Tennis Center Chattanooga, TN
- Hilton El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort & Club Tucson, AZ
- Homewood-Flossmoor Racquet & Fitness Club Homewood, IL
- Kiwanis Recreation Center Tempe, AZ
- Laguna Creek Racquet Club Elk Grove, CA
- Lake Charles Country Club Lake Charles, LA
- Lexington County Tennis Complex Lexington, SC
- Los Gatos Tennis Academy Los Gatos, CA
- Mandarin Middle School Community Tennis Jacksonville, FL
- Meadow Creek Tennis and Fitness Club Lakewood, CO
- Memorial Park Tennis Center Colorado Springs, CO
- Midland Community Tennis Center Midland, MI
- Midtown Athletic Club Weston Weston, FL
- Midtown Tennis Club Overland Park, KS
- Millbrook Exchange Tennis Center Raleigh, NC
- Miller Tennis Center Williamsville, NY
- Oconomowoc Community Tennis Center Oconomowoc, WI
- Paseo Racquet Center Glendale, AZ
- Raleigh Racquet Club Raleigh, NC
- Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center Minneapolis, MN
- Reynolds Plantation Lake Club Tennis Center Greensboro, GA
- Rudgear Park Walnut Creek, CA
- Sarver Tennis Club Bluefield WV
- Shaw Park Tennis Welcome Center Clayton, MO
- South Towns Tennis Club Orchard Park, NY
- Springfield Racquet Club Springfield, OH
- Sprinker Tennis Center Tacoma, WA
- Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex Surprise, AZ
- Tennis Center of Coral springs Coral Springs, FL
- Todd Morsilli Clay Court Tennis Center Providence, RI
- Towpath Tennis Center Akron, OH
- Upper Main Line YMCA Berwyn, PA
- Village Glen Tennis Club Williamsville, NY
- YMCA Greendale Worcester, MA

managers and the staff of these TWCs play a critical role in ensuring the continued growth of players in our sport,” says Glenn Arrington, the USTA National Manager for Tennis Welcome Centers. “The USTA remains committed in our support of the TIA and of the Tennis Welcome Center Initiative, which helps introduce thousands of new players to tennis each year.”

To choose the Top 50 TWCs, an independent research firm, Sports Marketing Surveys USA of Jupiter, Fla., received nominations via an online survey. The company then used extensive criteria measures to determine this year’s winners, which also were reviewed by an Awards Committee. This is the third year that this prestigious recognition has been awarded.

The Tennis Welcome Center initiative is backed by all sectors of the industry, from governing bodies and manufacturers to media, retailers, teaching organizations, pro groups and facilities. Popular pro players Maria Sharapova and James Blake are spokesmodels for the program, which is free to tennis facilities that wish to support industry efforts to grow participation through specific programming and marketing.

The TWC initiative has been a key factor in tennis reaching nearly 27 million recreational players in 2008, which is the highest participation level in 15 years. In addition, according to a study by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, from 2000 to 2008 tennis participation has grown 43%, by far the fastest growing traditional participation sport, well ahead of its nearest rival (racquetball, at 11.6%) and far surpassing sports such as golf, soccer, basketball, swimming and baseball, most of which saw declining participation over the same eight years. Also, industry research shows that both racquet sales and ball sales have increased for the last five years from 2003 through 2008.

ABOUT TENNIS WELCOME CENTERS

The Tennis Welcome Center initiative is a joint effort by the Tennis Industry Association and U.S. Tennis Association to promote the growth of tennis. Participation in the program is free to facilities that agree to meet qualifications in programming and other aspects. All Tennis Welcome Center locations receive valuable benefits and promotion. For information on becoming a TWC, visit <http://partners.tenniswelcomecenter.com> or growingtennis.com or email info@growingtennis.com.

PHOTOS & ADDITIONAL SOURCES UPON REQUEST

Contact: Jolyn de Boer, Executive Director, TIA, 843-686-3036
Glenn Arrington, National Manager for Tennis Welcome Centers, USTA, (914) 696-7000

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit <http://www.TennisWelcomeCenter.com>

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