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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sierra Madre Girl's Softball Association Team Qualifies for
Prestigious ASA Western National Championships**

Team to raise \$20,000 to travel to Las Cruces, New Mexico

From August 2-8, the Sierra Madre Girls Softball 12 and Under Team will compete in the 2010 ASA Western National Girls Class B Fast Pitch Championships in Las Cruces, New Mexico. This is the first time in the nearly 35 year history of the league that a team has qualified for this Championship.

The team achieved this opportunity by successfully competing against 31 other teams throughout Southern California that had qualified for the Southern California State Championships held in Lancaster, CA July 9-11. During the tournament, Sierra Madre defeated several teams, including perennial national champion, Bonita Valley.

"It has been an absolute delight managing this group of girls, who are the most fun, and flexible group of athletes I've ever had the pleasure of coaching," stated Brian Hanel, Sierra Madre resident and Team Manager. "They are resilient and have demonstrated time and time again their fortitude and commitment to the team. We look forward to representing our league, the City of Sierra Madre, as well as the entire San Gabriel Valley at this National tournament."

At the Championships in Las Cruces, the team is guaranteed of playing at least four games at the Field of Dreams complex against teams from all over the Western United States including Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Idaho, Alaska, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, California and Hawaii.

The SMGSA Western National qualifying team is comprised of team members that have been part of the SMGSA league, on average, for five seasons and include: Becca Hanel (Sierra Madre), Alexi Zate (Sierra Madre), Katie Sparks (Sierra Madre), Jenny Haderlein (Pasadena), Katherine Knop (Pasadena), Midge Zuk (Monrovia), Kiki Shuster (Arcadia), Marisa and Maxine Fuentes (El Monte), Kaylee Johnson (Monrovia), Kelly Crowley (San Marino), Austen Hustler (Duarte), Lindsey Powell (Monrovia), and Miranda Bielski (Altadena).

The team projects that trip expenses will cost \$20,000 to represent the League and City of Sierra Madre at this National event. The girls and their families will be engaged in a variety of activities over the next two weeks in an attempt to offset the trip's expenses.

The team welcomes donations. Tax-deductible checks of support can be made out to: SMGSA and sent to SMGSA, Western National Championships, P.O. Box 1055, Sierra Madre, CA 91025. The non-profit's tax-exempt number is 95-3297156.

For further information or ways to contribute, please contact Kurt Knop at (310)880-1009 or email him at kknop91104@yahoo.com.

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