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MARK SANCHEZ TO CELEBRATE HIS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INNER-CITY GAMES AND THE HOLLENBECK YOUTH CENTER WHEN HE MAKES FIRST PITCH AT ANGEL STADIUM ON JULY 23, 2009

Former USC quarterback and 5th overall selection by the New York Jets in the 2009 NFL draft to serve as official ambassador and spokesperson for an organization dedicated to providing positive alternatives for at-risk youth in the face of state and federal cutbacks

LOS ANGELES – The Jets rookie quarterback and 2009 Rose Bowl Champion and MVP, Mark Sanchez, announced that he will partner with the Los Angeles Inner-City Games and Hollenbeck Youth Center, whose mission it is to create opportunities for inner-city youth to participate in athletic, educational, cultural and community enrichment programs.

To celebrate and memorialize their partnership, the newly minted NFL quarterback will be throwing out the first pitch on behalf of the organizations at Angel Stadium on July 23rd when the Los Angeles Angels host the Minnesota Twins. Sanchez is a longtime supporter of the Inner-City Games and Hollenbeck Youth Center and his donation will be dedicated towards the organizations' Summer Programs. Fifty youth from the Inner-City Games/ Hollenbeck Youth center will be in attendance, wearing Angel gear, compliments of the Los Angeles Angels.

In the face of budget cuts on both state and local levels, after school and summer programs have been dramatically reduced. Summer classes and non-academic summer programs have been eliminated by the Los Angeles Unified School District and young people have been left with few alternatives. Los Angeles and Angelinos face a huge challenge ...what opportunities can we provide for the hundreds of thousands of young people this summer? A recent LA Times article estimated that 225,000 students participate in summer programs. **Mark's commitment will allow the Hollenbeck Youth Center and the Inner-City Games to increase their programming by 50%, to offset the once government funded efforts.**

The Hollenbeck Youth Center has been providing at-risk youth with free after school activities, including academic and athletic programs, for over three decades. Enrollment has reached maximum capacity but, with Sanchez's commitment, the organizations will now be able to expand their programming to serve the growing number of young people.

"We have a great opportunity to alleviate the unprecedented need by our youth that has resulted from our economic crisis because of Mark's generosity and commitment to kids," states Daniel Hernandez, President of the Hollenbeck Youth Center.

Sanchez has championed the Inner-City Games and Hollenbeck Youth Center as a volunteer at the organizations' annual Miracle on 1st Street program that provides 10,000 inner city children with toys and Christmas cheer. Sanchez was also the 2009 recipient of the Inner-City Games and Hollenbeck Youth Center's Amigo de los Niños Award. For more information, please visit www.hollenbeckpbc.org