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Houston's Bilingual Vietnamese Week

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Hope Initiative Tennis Tourney Set For Saturday

By Lynn Tran
Saigon Tex News

Hope Initiative will hold its first annual "Aces for Charity" tennis tournament event at the Lee LeClear Tennis Center on August 5-6, 2006. Hope Initiative operates several fundraising enterprises designed to raise donations for orphanages in Vietnam as well as community service activities designed to assist the local Vietnamese communities in Houston.



Hope Initiative's objectives for the tennis tournament are two-fold. The first objective is to raise funds to help out the orphanages. The second objective is to reach out to a more broad and diverse community. Hope Initiative believes the tournament will help spread their message and get more people active in the community.

Ultimately, Hope Initiative seeks to be the chosen Vietnam-focused charity for leading foundations, institutional and individual donors and other financial sponsors.

The group chose tennis due to the great love for tennis in the Asian community. They claim that many sponsors have committed to the event and they are confident that it will be a success.

"We currently have about 50 players registered to play but we expect many more to register," says HI Tennis Tournament Director Johnny Tran. Players can register online at www.hionline.org/tennis and the deadline for entry is August 3rd.

The tournament is limited to 120 total entries with events including Men's Singles A & B, Men's Doubles A & B, Women's Singles A & B, Women's Doubles A & B and mixed doubles. Entry fee is \$25 per person and \$50 team entries includes player's t-shirt, players goodie bags, free promotional items and a chance to win some raffle prizes.

The first match will begin exactly at 8:30 a.m., but players are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes early to register at the tournament desk prior to the first round. Each participant

"We have many different sponsors ranging in different levels of bronze, silver, and gold with gold being the highest," says Johnny Tran. "We have enlisted the sponsorship from a host of wonderful companies. We appreciate the generosity put forth by all of our sponsors and are greatly in debt to them," he said.

Since 2000, Hope Initiative has raised \$62,000 and has distributed proceeds to 20 orphanages.

LeClear Tennis Center is located at 9506 S. Gessner Drive.