



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Los Angeles Sparks Active During WNBA Cares Week of Service

*Team to Visit Local School, Women's Home as part of Annual Community Service Initiative*

LOS ANGELES – In advance of their WNBA's 15th season, the Los Angeles Sparks will give back to their community with special events and activities as part of the WNBA Cares Week of Service beginning Monday, May 23.

The Sparks will visit Crenshaw High School (5010 11th Ave., Los Angeles, 90043) on Monday from 12-1:30 p.m. to promote a tobacco-free community with a traveling practice and special recognition of students who participated in the T.A.R.G.E.T. (Teens and Retailers Getting Educated on Tobacco) Project, a school-based initiative focused on tobacco prevention. Students will have the chance to compete in a three-ball shoot out with Sparks players to win tickets and locker room passes to the Sparks season opener on June 3 vs. Minnesota. The event is presented by Sparks' partner [LA County Department of Public Health Tobacco Prevention and Control Program](#).

Then on Tuesday, May 24, for the third consecutive year the Sparks will team up with the Jenesse Center and Home Sweet Home to help renovate apartments for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The service endeavor will take place from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the three-story Jenesse Center (2315 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018), which houses over 500 women per year as part of its 30-day emergency shelter program. In previous years, the Sparks have painted walls and decorated rooms in support of the oldest domestic violence intervention program in South Los Angeles. For more information, visit [jenesse.org](http://jenesse.org).

"The Los Angeles Sparks not only strive to win championships, but to be the most community-oriented professional sports franchise in Southern California," said head coach Jennifer Gillom. "We are proud to support the T.A.R.G.E.T. Project at Crenshaw High, and continue our partnership with the Jenesse Center and Home Sweet Home to help women in need."

The two events lead into the Sparks' preseason opener vs. defending WNBA champion Seattle on Wednesday, May 25 on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills in Carson, Calif. Prior to the 12 p.m. tip-off in the Torodome, CSUDH will conduct an educational "math and basketball" workshop for the hundreds of grade school students confirmed to attend.

Through [WNBA Cares](#), the WNBA is deeply committed to creating programs that improve the quality of life for all people, with a special emphasis on programs that promote a healthy lifestyle and positive body image, increase breast and women's health awareness, support youth and family development, and focus on education.

Sparks fans can purchase single game tickets starting at just \$10 online at [LASparks.com](http://LASparks.com), by phone at 877-44-SPARKS (772757), at the STAPLES Center box office and at all Ticketmaster outlets. Season tickets, as well as flexible mini-plan options, are also available.

**About the Los Angeles Sparks**

The Los Angeles Sparks, an original Women's National Basketball Association team, enter their 15<sup>th</sup> season in 2011. The Sparks are one of six WNBA franchises that fall under the league's independent ownership model. Winner of back-to-back WNBA championships in 2001 and 2002, Los Angeles' roster of star athletes includes 2008 WNBA MVP and Rookie of the Year Candace Parker, four-time WNBA champion and all-time leading scorer Tina Thompson, and two-time WNBA champion DeLisha Milton-Jones. The Sparks play their home games at STAPLES Center in the heart of downtown Los Angeles. For ticket information, call 877-44-SPARKS (772757) or visit [LASparks.com](http://LASparks.com).