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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MIRIAM FOUNDATION RECEIVES
MABEE FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANT**

St. Louis – April 26, 2010 – St. Louis’ Miriam Foundation, which provides services for children with multiple learning disabilities and their families, has been awarded a challenge grant from the J.E and L.E. Mabee Foundation.

The challenge grant will help the foundation reach its capital campaign fundraising goal of \$2.2 million for the construction of the Mary Ann Lee Gymnasium on the grounds of the Miriam School and Miriam Learning Center in Webster Groves, MO.

The Mabee grant – a first for the Miriam Foundation – will provide the final \$250,000 toward the gym when the Miriam Foundation raises the balance of \$736,000 needed for the project.

“This generous challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation gives us extra incentive to raise the necessary funds by the deadline in April 2011,” said Andrew Thorp, executive director of the Miriam Foundation. “A recent gift by Mary Ann Lee to provide major funding for a new gymnasium took us a long way toward reaching our financial projections, and this exciting news puts our goals within reach.”

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The new gymnasium will provide 7,600 square feet of recreational and support space. It will be attached to the north side of the Miriam School and will include a separate entrance for event access. The gym design will include large windows designed to admit natural light and will be acoustically treated to meet the special sensory needs of Miriam students. Completion is expected in spring 2011.

The Miriam Foundation improves the quality of life for children with learning disabilities and their families through innovative and comprehensive programs. The organization is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2010. The Foundation supports the Miriam School and Miriam Learning Center, both of which provide services to these throughout the St. Louis metropolitan region.

The J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation, Inc. was formed in 1948 by Mr. John E. Mabee and his wife, Lottie E. Mabee, with its office in Tulsa, Oklahoma. As stated in its charter, the purposes of the Foundation are to aid religious organizations, charitable organizations, institutions of higher learning, hospitals and other organizations of a general charitable nature. The foundation's geographical area of interest includes the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.miriamfoundation.org/content/gymnasium.html>

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