

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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**Philadelphia Phillies Host Celiac Disease Awareness Night**

*Support local celiac groups during July 20<sup>th</sup> game versus the Chicago Cubs*

**Ambler, Pennsylvania (July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009)**- The Philadelphia Phillies have teamed up with the National Foundation for Celiac Awareness (NFCA) and Delaware valley area support groups to host a Celiac Awareness Night at Citizens Bank Park on Monday, July 20, 2009 at 7:05pm.

The team will support NFCA's mission of raising awareness and funding for celiac disease by donating ticket proceeds from the July 20<sup>th</sup> game versus the Chicago Cubs to the cause.

Citizens Bank Park will provide an assortment gluten-free foods and beverages during the game and feature a Celiac Awareness Night exclusive Phanatic Gluten-Free Kid Meal, which includes a hot dog, chips, drink and a special treat. Meals will be available behind Sections 210 and 211.

Citizens Bank Park offers a robust gluten-free menu throughout the season in an effort to accommodate those with conditions like celiac disease who require a gluten-free diet. [Visit the Phillies website for more information.](#)

Tickets for Celiac Awareness Night at the Phillies can be purchased online through the Phillies box office ([www.phillies.com/celiac](http://www.phillies.com/celiac)) or by phone at (215) 463- 5000 ext. 5111. There are a variety of ticket prices and seating options available. Be sure to enter the promotional code 'CELIAC' to guarantee that proceeds from your ticket sales go to support raising celiac awareness.

Celiac disease is an autoimmune digestive disease that damages the small intestine and interferes with absorption of nutrients from food. It is triggered by consumption of the protein called gluten, which is found in wheat, barley and rye. Left untreated, people with celiac disease can develop further complications such as other autoimmune diseases, thyroid disease, and some cancers. An estimated 3 million Americans have celiac disease, yet 97% remain undiagnosed. The only existing therapeutic option for those with celiac disease is a lifelong adherence to a 100 % gluten-free diet.

Recognizing celiac disease can be difficult because some of its symptoms are similar to those of other diseases such as irritable bowel syndrome, iron-deficiency anemia inflammatory bowel disease, and chronic fatigue syndrome. As a result, celiac disease has long been under diagnosed or misdiagnosed.

About the NFCA:

The National Foundation for Celiac Awareness (NFCA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funding for celiac disease that will

facilitate research, education and screening amongst medical professionals, children and adults. Visit [www.celiaccentral.org](http://www.celiaccentral.org) or call 215-325-1306 for further information.

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