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### **MONEY RAISED FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS TO TAKE CLASSES IN THE SPORT OF FENCING**

OKLAHOMA CITY – July 20, 2011 – Multi-award winning producer/director George Adams raised \$1500.00 for visually impaired students who wish to take fencing classes at the Oklahoma Sport Fencing club in Edmond.

Adams, an avid fencer himself, is currently in pre-production on his latest documentary, *Touché: A Blind Fencer's Story*. “I read about a blind fencing tournament taking place in Boston,” says Adams. “I contacted the coach there and asked if I could shoot a documentary about his class and his students.” As fate would have it, one of winners of the tournament lives right here in Oklahoma City. One sunny afternoon, Adams literally “bumped” into the young woman at a local post office where Adams introduced himself.

Catherine Bolton, a bright young woman who was diagnosed with a very rare disease that took her sight two years ago, agreed to take part in the documentary. After several surgeries and with no change to her vision, Ms. Bolton has come to accept the fact that she is now legally blind. As part of her vision rehabilitation, she learned the combat sport of fencing. This is a daunting sport for a sighted person, yet the abilities needed in the sport are extremely important to a person without sight.

Oklahoma Sport Fencing of Edmond, where Adams is a member, will partner with New View Oklahoma (formerly Oklahoma League for the Blind) in a fencing workshop for visually-impaired students this Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Adams will be taking part as an assistant coach at the workshop and hopes to entice students to take classes at the Oklahoma Sport Fencing facility. As part of the enticement, Adams raised \$1500.00 through private contributions so fifteen visually-impaired students can take a two-month course at the club free of charge.

Fencing, according to Adams, can help with skills needed to navigate tactilely. A foil (one of the blades used in fencing) is similar to a cane as both are used to “touch” and help a visually-impaired person with orientation of obstacles around them.

Bolton, who is now a member of Oklahoma Sport Fencing will also be participating in Monday's workshop. She hopes she can be a good example of how the sport of fencing can empower those with vision impairments.

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