



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 11, 2010

Media Contact: Sara Bazant
Director of Marketing
Orangewood Children's Foundation
Office: 714-619-0206
Cell: 562-743-7272

Pro Football Players Rally for Orangewood

*Over 50 NFL Stars Participate in Charity Dinner & Golf Tournament
to Benefit Orange County Abused Children*

*Dinner Honored Eleven-Time NFL Pro Bowler Ray Lewis and
Businessman & Philanthropist Robert Barth*

Dana Point – Athletes First, a Newport Beach sports agency that represents more than 100 athletes and coaches, partnered with Orangewood Children's Foundation and its PALS auxiliary again this year and hosted its annual two-day fundraiser, "The Athletes First Classic." The gala event was held at the St. Regis Resort, Monarch Beach in Dana Point on March 6th, with a golf tournament the following day. Presenting sponsors were the Argyros Foundation and Robert and Suzy Barth. Athletes attending the weekend events included Hall of Fame players such as Eric Dickerson and many young players represented by Athletes First going into the 2010 draft including Colt McCoy (Texas University) and Toby Gerhart (Stanford University). The gala and golf event are expected to raise more than \$400,000 for Orangewood Children's Foundation's scholarship program for former foster teens in Orange County.

Over 730 people gathered at the gala on Saturday night. The dinner program included a testimonial by former foster youth Ken Reid. When Ken was just 14 years old his father died. His mother turned to alcohol to cope with the family's loss and resulting struggles. When she was unable to adequately care for Ken and his two younger brothers, they were placed into foster care. Ken now attends Golden West College on an Orangewood scholarship and is planning to transfer to a four year university in the fall. After Ken's speech, guests were invited to sponsor other Orangewood scholarship students. Moved by Ken's story, they donated over \$170,000 to Orangewood's scholarship fund.

The culmination of the evening was the presentation of the 2010 Golden Heart Award to Ray Lewis and Robert “Bob” Barth. The award is given annually to two honorees, one an athlete who has been a positive role model and has made contributions off the field, and the other a local business leader who has exhibited leadership in doing good works and benefiting humanity. NFL fullback Lorenzo Neal presented the award to Lewis. Tyler and Missy Barth presented the award to their father.

Lewis is an eleven-time Pro Bowl selection and was named MVP of Super Bowl XXXV. In addition to being considered one of the greatest defensive players to ever play professional football, Lewis started the non-profit “Ray Lewis 52 Foundation,” whose mission is to provide personal and economic assistance to disadvantaged youth. Lewis has also been involved in pressing political, business and philanthropic leaders for a stronger commitment to disability sports, both domestically and in the developing world. Among the many awards he has received for his charitable work and community service are the coveted JB Award (given to NFL players by broadcaster James Brown) and the Act of Kindness Award.

Barth is the CEO of Black Equities Group Ltd. He is an active member of Orangewood’s board of directors and a frequent sponsor of the Foundation’s fundraising events. His passion for the abused and neglected children of Orangewood is a family affair which includes his wife Suzy and adult children Tyler and Missy. In addition to Orangewood, Bob supports numerous other charities where he has served as an event co-chair, committee member or board member for organizations such as Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services in Los Angeles, the Prostate Cancer Foundation, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Harvard University and Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles.

The liveliest point during the evening, which was emceed by ESPN reporter, Michael Smith, was the live auction which featured a 7-night stay at Taunovo Bay Resort & Spa in Fiji, a culinary experience in Paris at Le Cordon Bleu, and a night on Broadway hosted by New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez.

“This was a great opportunity for our clients to come together for a great cause,” said Athletes First CEO David Dunn. “I applaud them for taking time out of their extremely busy schedules to help the kids of Orangewood, and to help honor Ray and Bob.”

Orangewood Chief Executive Officer Cal Winslow said, “We are honored to continue our partnership with David Dunn and the whole Athletes First organization, and we’re delighted to be the beneficiary of this year’s Classic.”