

Orangewood Children's Foundation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 2008

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DeCinces Classic Reaches \$3 Million for Abused Kids

20 Year Event Concludes with "A Perfect Season"

Irvine – More than 180 Orangewood and Doug DeCinces fans joined in celebrating the 20th and final Doug DeCinces Orangewood Classic on Saturday evening, Sept. 13 at Strawberry Farms Golf Club. The Classic was presented by Tustin Lexus and included a dinner on Saturday night and a golf tournament on Monday, Sept. 15. Saturday evening included a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, a testimonial from an Orangewood former foster youth, dinner and entertainment by Roy Firestone. Two days later 170 golfers enjoyed a morning or afternoon round of golf on the beautiful Strawberry Farms course. The annual chairman of the Classic is Doug DeCinces, a long-time Orangewood board member and former Major League Baseball third baseman for the Baltimore Orioles and the California Angels. The two-day event netted \$200,000 for Orangewood, bringing the 20-year total to \$3 million.

The dinner was a multi-generational event. Doug and Kristi DeCinces' adult children, Tim and Amy, were there with their spouses (Melissa and T.J. respectively) Fellow Orangewood board member Jim McNamara and his wife Oralee were there with several of their children as well.

Also in attendance were Vikki Murphy of Wilson Automotive Group and husband Mark Murphy, City of Orange Council member; Ted Bremner from Union Bank with his wife Dale; Morgan Anderson from Share Our Wine Foundation with wife Jenni; Orangewood board member Piero Wemyss and wife Kristy; and Rob and Cheryl Venneri.

As dinner guests mingled on the Clubhouse terrace at the reception, they were treated to Ketel One martinis and the opportunity to bid on 44 silent auction items. As the sun set, the crowd then made their way to the Strawberry Farms barn for dinner: a duo of filet mignon and sea bass with wild rice and asparagus, and strawberry cheesecake for dessert. During the program Doug recognized those who had been on the event committee over the years, including Millie Plotnick from Tustin Lexus who served on it for the past 17 years.

Former foster youth Kim Snodgrass shared her childhood experiences of having to assume the roll of mother in her family at the age of eight while her single mother focused her attention on drugs and alcohol. Snodgrass was adopted as a teenager but lost her adoptive father to cancer on Christmas day a few years later. With direction and a college scholarship from Orangewood Children's Foundation, she is now a very active junior at U.C. Irvine.

After Kim's emotional speech, Doug played auctioneer and facilitated lively bidding on the 11 live auction items, with the most coveted item being two golf spots in the Lexus Champions for Charity National PGA Championship at Pebble Beach in December. The happy winner was Erik Ostergaard of Palm Desert. At the end of the live auction, guests had the opportunity to support Orangewood by sponsoring college scholarships and other Foundation programs. Inspired by Kim's touching speech, guests donated over \$30,000 in direct support of Orangewood.

Sportscaster and entertainer Roy Firestone entertained the crowd after dinner with songs, impressions and stories from the world of sports and entertainment.

In addition to presenting sponsor Tustin Lexus, other major sponsors included Advanced Medical Optics, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, Lyon Apartment Companies and Union Bank of California.

Orangewood Children's Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1981 and one of the leading providers of services to children in foster care. Through financial assistance, mentors, daily living skills workshops, transitional housing and college scholarships, we give these innocent victims of child abuse a second chance at happy, productive lives. Last year alone Orangewood scholarships helped 241 former foster children attend colleges and universities throughout the United States. In our 27 year history we have helped over 62,000 kids find their wings and soar. Beyond our programs, for thousands of foster children Orangewood means "family," "opportunity" and "hope."