



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Orange Blossom Bash Honors Local Philanthropist & Baseball Star Doug DeCinces**

**Newport Beach** – Over 320 Orangewood supporters and the family and friends of board member Doug DeCinces gathered under the stars yesterday at the Fairmont Newport Beach for the 21<sup>st</sup> Orange Blossom Bash, benefiting Orangewood Children's Foundation. DeCinces was honored for his 20 years of commitment to abused children in Orange County, including hosting an annual golf tournament now celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year for the Foundation. The event was chaired by Board member Christyne Sutton Olson and her committee, and emceed by Board chairman Dave Ritchie. The evening raised over \$300,000 for Orangewood programs.

With the theme of "A Perfect Season" and a suggested attire of "Mai Tai, no tie," guests wore Tommy Bahama-type shirts and colorful summer dresses. The more comfortable attire seemed to be a hit with both the men and women. In his opening comments, Board chairman Dave Ritchie jokingly made a motion to eliminate black tie events. The décor reflected the summer theme with tablecloths and florals in citrus colors (pinks, oranges, yellows and greens) and cool blues and purples. Steel drum music, played by Nu Pan Groove, added to the tropical, summer feel during the reception.

Upon entering the terrace, guests were invited to purchase \$100 opportunity tickets for a drawing for Lugano diamond earrings or yellow gold men's cufflinks. The first 200 ticket purchasers automatically received either a pair of Tahitian pearl earrings or men's cufflinks from Lugano. Opportunity drawing winners were Tiffany Malenitza for the earrings and Irma Trinkas for the cufflinks. Irma, a friend of chair Christyne Sutton Olson, donated them back to Orangewood.

All of Doug's immediate family was in attendance including: wife Kristin, son Tim and

his wife Melissa and daughters Delaney, Riley and Paige, daughter Amy Williams and husband TJ and son Brody, and Doug's parents Ted & Phyllis DeCinces.

Former foster youth Michael Malenitza shared his story, which started at the age of six when his parents both died from their involvement in drugs. Years later he was accepted to Chapman University but after a year and half was struggling financially and on the verge of dropping out. He learned of Orangewood's programs that provide financial and other support to enable former foster youth to attend college. When he learned that he was eligible for those programs, he says "it was the happiest day of my life." Today he is a personal banker at Wells Fargo and an aspiring screenwriter.

In the live auction, a golf package for two with PGA golfer John Cook was won by Rich Saul (a friend of Doug's and also a former NFL football player with the former Los Angeles Rams team from the 1970's). A travel package to Carmel was won by Doug's wife, Kristi. The big winner was Peter Levshin, whose bid of \$26,000 won him a 2008 Toyota Prius. At the end of the live auction, a call for \$6,000 or \$3,500 sponsors for college scholarships for former foster youth netted \$55,000.

After his speech thanking Orangewood and the event committee for honoring him, Doug DeCinces was presented with Lugano diamond cuff links from Lugano's owner and president, Moti Ferder.

In attendance were the two "architects" whose vision over 27 years ago created the Orangewood Children's Foundation: General William Lyon who served as Orangewood's founding board chairman (and wife WillaDean) and Bill Steiner who was with the County when the Foundation was first formed but later became the Foundation's Executive Director.

After the formal program ended, guests danced to pop music tunes from the band "Doc Brown."

#### ***About Orangewood Children's Foundation***

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 grants, 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."