

DELIVER THE DREAM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2007

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“Denim and Diamonds” Gala Honoring Pat Moran Raises \$225,000

Fort Lauderdale, FL – Deliver the Dream’s fourth annual “Denim and Diamonds” Gala was held this year on Saturday, October 27th, at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa. The gala paid tribute to the non-profit’s founder and CEO Pat Moran, former chairman of JM Family Enterprises, Inc., recognizing her tremendous impact on the lives of seriously ill children and their families. Community leader Ray Imperial served as event chair and Biscup Spine Institute was the event’s title sponsor.

Emceed by WSVN7’s weekend anchor Reed Cowan, the gala proved to be a memorable evening for attendees, with the perfect mixture of community spirit, elegance, and comedy. Guests, comfortably dressed in their best denim paired with formal attire, enjoyed headline entertainment featuring comedic magician Bill Malone and stand-up comedian and country singer Gary Mule Deer. Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed great dance tunes by the Gypsy Lane Band.

Local actor, comedian, director Wil Shriner hosted the live auction where guests engaged in bidding wars over unique items including golf trips at St. Andrews, Scotland and The Masters Golf Tournament at Augusta, a barge cruise in the South of France, a mountain escape to The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, and a trip for two to Napa Valley’s Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa. The gala’s live and silent auctions combined raised nearly \$55,000 for Deliver the Dream’s retreat program. The evening in its entirety netted more than \$225,000, bringing the total funds raised since the gala’s inception to more than \$900,000!

The Denim and Diamonds Gala brings together organizations, corporations and people who are committed to making a difference in the lives of families in crisis. “Such a large part of our practice is giving people with disabling and often crippling pain a chance to improve their quality of

life," commented Biscup Spine Institute's founder, Dr. Robert Biscup. "Deliver the Dream accomplishes that mission in a very significant way by impacting entire families. We felt compelled to support an organization that reaches out to families that have been devastated by pain, illness and neurological dysfunction and give them a place to bond as a family again and meet others in similar situations."

Event Chair Ray Imperial praised the gala's many corporate sponsors. "We are enormously grateful to our title sponsor Biscup Spine Institute, along with our other major sponsors, Andy Roddick Foundation, Comcast, *Sun-Sentinel* and WSVN7, for investing so much of their time and dollars in supporting our efforts to help families who so desperately need the assistance Deliver the Dream's retreat program provides." Lead sponsors of the gala also included Citrix Systems, Inc., JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Wachovia Bank, N.A., Ed Morse Automotive Group, Machado | Garcia-Serra, Siemon & Larsen, P.A., *South Florida Business Journal*, 22-Squared and Williams & Connolly LLP.

All proceeds from the gala are used to fund Deliver the Dream's retreat program, which serves families in need by helping them to enhance coping skills, reduce stress, and cultivate supportive relationships that will see them through their crisis. The organization offers four-day, three-night retreats which combine traditional recreational activities like hiking, swimming, fishing and rock wall climbing with therapeutic workshops, peer-to-peer discussion groups and expressive arts and music activities. Through the generosity of its donors, Deliver the Dream is able to offer participation to families free of charge.

To date, more than 3,000 family participants have benefited from Deliver the Dream's retreat program. Families are referred to Deliver the Dream by a network of not-for-profit healthcare organizations in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. South Florida families who participated in retreats in 2007 were referred by the American Cancer Society of Florida, Chris Evert Children's Hospital at Broward General Medical Center, National Multiple Sclerosis Society of South Florida, and the Mailman Childhood Development Center.

For information about Deliver the Dream, call 1-888-687-3732 (OUR-DREAM) or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.deliverthedream.org/" \t "_blank"](http://www.deliverthedream.org/) **www.deliverthedream.org** for more information.

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