



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ORANGE COUNTY CORPORATIONS PREVENT CHILD ABUSE**

### **Athletes Casino Night Benefits Orange County's Kids**

**Orange, CA – January 14, 2009** – Orange County Companies stepped up to the plate for the Child Abuse Prevention Center at its “Athletes and Aces” Casino Night on January 10<sup>th</sup>. The Wives of Professional Athletes, a support group of the Child Abuse Prevention Center, have organized this event for the last four years, with this year’s event raising more than \$40,000 to benefit the Prevention Center’s in-home and mental health programs.

Orange County’s own Anaheim Ducks and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim showed up in support of the Child Abuse Prevention Center, leading the athlete involvement for the evening. Athletes in attendance included current NHL players, Jean-Sebastien Giguere, Sammy Pahlsson, Teemu Selanne, Major League Baseball’s Darin Erstad, John Lackey, Robb Nen, Adam Kennedy, in addition to the NFL’s Christian Okoye, Rob Johnson and many more!

“The Anaheim Ducks & Honda Center are proud to support the Wives of Professional Athletes and the Athletes and Aces event once again this year,” commented Wendy Yamagishi the Director of Community Relations and Public Affairs for the Anaheim Ducks and Honda Center. “Community involvement is a top priority for our organizations and that includes the wives of our players. We applaud their efforts and the work of all of the wives to put together another great event.”

(More)

## ATHLETE WIVES PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

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Newport Lexus provided the beautiful setting for the event by donating their showroom to the Child Abuse Prevention Center for the evening. In addition, Hanna's Restaurant in Rancho Santa Margarita provided a progressive hors d'oeuvres service featuring braised short ribs, a mash potato martini bar, ahi tostadas, roasted butternut squash chipotle soup, a chocolate fountain and more.

The evening's sponsors included Anaheim Ducks/Honda Center, Shulman, Hodges & Bastian, Aetna, the Busch Firm, DirectBuy of Orange County, Howard Building Corporation, and Robb and Jendy Nen, totaling \$17,500 in sponsorship support alone. In addition, the generous auction item donations from the Fairmont Newport Beach, Don Callahan of the Butch Harmon School of Golf, Melissa's Produce and more helped generate more than \$34,000 in auction revenue.

"It's wonderful to see so many people joining in the fight against child abuse. The Prevention Center is honored to have such great athletes and their families join our mission and know that their efforts will go directly toward helping our children and families," said Scott Trotter, the Executive Director of the Child Abuse Prevention Center.

The Child Abuse Prevention Center is dedicated to serving at-risk children and families with programs that break the generational cycle of child abuse and family violence. The Prevention Center's early intervention programs have well-documented records of strengthening and improving parent-child relationships and working to prevent abuse before it occurs. Since 1983, the Prevention Center has served more than 190,000 Orange County residents – including 15,000 children, 3,800 parents and 4,300 families in the last year alone. For additional information, please visit the Prevention Center's web site at [www.BrightFutures4Kids.org](http://www.BrightFutures4Kids.org).

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