

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **JESSICA ERSTAD SECOND ANNUAL “NOT SO SERIOUS” WOMEN’S GOLF OUTING RAISES \$60,000 FOR THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION CENTER OF ORANGE COUNTY**

- **Jessica Erstad, Wife of Angels’ First Baseman Darin Erstad, Spearheads Women’s Event Benefiting the Child Abuse Prevention Center**
- **Proceeds To Reduce Program Waiting Lists For Teen Voices, Teen Choices Pregnancy Prevention Program**

**ORANGE, Calif. (June 23, 2005)** – Great times, not the lowest score, was the name of the game at the **Jessica Erstad Second Annual “Not So Serious” Women’s Golf Outing** benefiting the **Child Abuse Prevention Center**. Chaired by Jessica Erstad, wife of Angels’ First Baseman Darin Erstad, the exclusive charity event sold out three weeks before the scheduled June 20<sup>th</sup> golf outing. The event attracted 144 female business and community leaders from around the county and raised \$60,000 to support the Prevention Center’s **“Teen Voices, Teen Choices.”** This program provides teen pregnancy and dating violence prevention services, through peer-to-peer outreach in Orange County schools, Juvenile Hall and group homes.

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## **2-2-2 “NOT-SO-SERIOUS” WOMEN’S GOLF OUTING RAISES \$60,000**

Kent French, production manager for the Mighty Ducks, served as Master of Ceremonies, awarding prizes for lowest score, longest drive and closest to the pin. French also filled the role of auctioneer, helping raise more than \$30,000 on live and silent auction items, which included a one-week vacation to the Mediterranean Sea in Spain, eight night Hawaiian vacation for two, Four Seasons golf and spa packages and autographed baseball memorabilia from Darin Erstad, Vladimir Guerrero, Garret Anderson, Troy Percival and David Eckstein to name a few.

“The event was successful in so many ways,” said Erstad. “We try to create a relaxed, fun-filled afternoon for women of all golfing levels. Each hole has its own game, such as answer a trivia question right and you par the hole or putt with one of Darin’s baseball bats. We even have golf pros on the course to hit tee shots for the women.”

The Angels baseball family had a strong showing of support at the event. One foursome included current players’ wives Kerrie DaVanon (Jeff), Jennifer McPherson (Dallas), Kelly Paul (Josh) and Michelle Woods (Jake). Angels alumni wives included Shelly Gerber (Craig), Zetta Grich (Bobby), Jennifer Hudler (Rex), Kelly Miller (Darrell) and Kathy Verhoeven (John).

“We all had such a great time,” said Shelly Gerber. “We will be talking about this afternoon all year. We are definitely going to play again next year. We wouldn’t miss it!”

Darin Erstad’s mom Dorothy Erstad and Jessica’s mom Marge Bettger flew in from North Dakota and Nebraska respectively to show their support of cause and join in the fun.

But the women who played not only had a great time; they contributed a significant amount of funds that will support a valuable program to help teenage mothers.

“To net \$60,000 is just incredible,” said Jessica Erstad. “We doubled the dollar amount that we raised last year. We really want to thank the women and sponsors who participated for making this possible.”

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### **3-3-3 “NOT-SO-SERIOUS” WOMEN’S GOLF OUTING RAISES \$60,000**

A serious note amidst the evening’s festivities came from 19-year-old Iris Garcia, a panelist from the Prevention Center’s Teen Voices, Teen Choices pregnancy prevention program, who spoke to tournament participants about her struggles as a teen mother beginning at age 15. Her story connected the lighthearted fun of the day to the real reason everyone was there: to help bring an end to child abuse, domestic violence and teen pregnancy in Orange County.

“The women who played today did not come just to have fun,” said Kathy McCarrell, executive director of the Prevention Center. “They understand that child abuse is a serious problem that exists even here in Orange County and cannot be swept under the rug. They understand how empowering it is to know that you are making a difference in the lives of local children and families.”

A special award was presented to Megan Wurzelbacher, 12, of Corona del Mar. Megan, who volunteered all day at the event, recently celebrated her 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. Instead of having her friends and family bring presents to her party, she asked that they make a donation to the Child Abuse Prevention Center. Megan’s mother Kerry serves on the Board of Directors for The Center.

“Megan has a great big heart and parents who have instilled in her the value of reaching out to others. She is a very impressive young lady,” said McCarrell.

Event sponsors include: Angels Baseball; Beech Street Corporation; Boulevards of Travel; David P. Scheppers CPA; Deloitte; Genske, Mulder & Co, LLP; Housing Capital Company; Jennifer Stai; Kerry Wurzelbacher; Legacy Sports Group; Mary Johnson; Paula E. Meyer, Esq.; Pro Sport Physical Therapy; Robertson, Grieger & Thoele; Tekon Universal Sciences, Inc.; Washington Mutual.

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#### **4-4-4 “NOT-SO-SERIOUS” WOMEN’S GOLF OUTING RAISES \$60,000**

Now celebrating its 21st year in operation the Child Abuse Prevention Center is committed to breaking the generational cycle of child abuse, domestic violence and teen pregnancy in Orange County. The Prevention Center’s six different early intervention programs have a well-documented record of strengthening and improving parent-child relationships, working to prevent abuse *before* it occurs. Since 1984, the Prevention Center has served more than 140,000 Orange County residents. For additional information, please visit the Prevention Center’s web site at [www.BrightFutures4Kids.org](http://www.BrightFutures4Kids.org).

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