



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **DEBARTOLO FAMILY FOUNDATION HONORS THE CHILDREN'S HOME WITH THE SPIRIT OF HUMANITY AWARD**

**Tampa, FL (December 29, 2006)** – The Children's Home is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that creates an environment of opportunities for children to be successful, valued, and respected in safe nurturing families. Their vision transcends into one where all children are safe and free to pursue a happy childhood in caring and loving families. The DeBartolo Family Foundation recognizes The Children's Home for their steadfast dedication to these children and families by honoring the organization with a \$10,000 donation along with the Spirit of Humanity Award (SOH).

The Children's Home, located in Tampa, Florida was founded in 1892 and is the oldest charity on Florida's west coast. Accredited by the Council of Accreditation, The Children's Home operates a variety of child-focused and family-centered programs throughout the Tampa Bay area, including Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Manatee and Polk counties.

“The DeBartolo Family Foundation recognizes the enduring commitment that Mr. Veneman and his organization have for these special children. The Children's Home truly exemplifies what a grass-roots charitable organization represents in our community.” said Lisa DeBartolo, Executive Vice President, DeBartolo Holdings, LLC. “These children have now been given a solid, loving foundation in which to build their lives upon.”

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“Being awarded the ‘Spirit of Humanity’ award by the DeBartolo Family Foundation is very meaningful at several levels,” states Gerald H. Veneman, President/CEO of The Children’s Home. First of all, to be recognized by this stellar family foundation is an honor in and of itself. The fact that we competed with many other deserving charities and were chosen is also heartwarming. Last but not least, we never take what we do for granted, as the well-being of children is always uppermost in our minds and hearts. Having the efforts of our staff, Board, volunteers and donors validated by getting this award is testimony that we are making a difference in kids’ and families’ lives, our whole reason for being here the last 114 years.”

For more information on The Children’s Home, please call (813.855.4435) or visit their website at [www.childrenshome.org](http://www.childrenshome.org).

The DeBartolo Family Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation created by the members of the Edward J. DeBartolo, Jr. family to benefit local communities. The Foundation annually awards scholarships to deserving students, provides grants to individuals and organizations with exceptional requirements, and presents the Spirit of Humanity Award, honoring non-profit, grass roots organizations that provide extraordinary assistance to Tampa Bay residents with special needs. For more information, visit the foundation’s website at [www.debartolofamilyfoundation.com](http://www.debartolofamilyfoundation.com) or call the Foundation office at 813.964.8302.

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**(Note:** Attached photo: DeBartolo Family Foundation Presents Spirit of Humanity Award to The Children’s Home. Shown: (From Left) Nikki DeBartolo Heldfond, Executive Vice President, DeBartolo Holdings, LLC, Gerard H. Veneman, President/CEO, The Children’s Home, Lisa DeBartolo, Executive Vice President, DeBartolo Holdings LLC., Merideth Newman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Board of Directors, The Children’s Home and David Mastrorio, Chair, Board of Directors, The Children’s Home.