



NEWS RELEASE

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First Step of Sarasota's Caring Hearts Luncheon

SARASOTA, FL – December 23, 2009 – Supporting First Step of Sarasota's Mothers & Infants Program, the seventh annual Caring Hearts Luncheon will be held at Michael's On East on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 11:30 a.m.

Mothers & Infants provides a safe, supportive environment for pregnant women with substance abuse issues where they can begin a life of recovery while also gaining parenting, educational and vocational skills. Since the program began in 1995, more than 235 healthy, drug-free babies have been born.

This year's event will honor Judge Andrew Owens, who was appointed to the 12th Judicial Circuit by the Honorable Bob Graham in 1983. Judge Owens founded the Drug Court programs in Sarasota and Manatee Counties in 1997. Through Drug Court, each year an average of 300 individuals receive substance abuse treatment, and begin living productive lives without the influences of drugs or impact of drug-related crimes.

As in years past, one of the highlights will be the presentation given by a First Step recent alumnae sharing her powerful story of addiction and recovery, and how her life has been changed based on the time spent in Mothers & Infants.

For reservations or more information about the Caring Hearts Luncheon, contact Kelly French at 941-552-2065 or visit First Step's website at www.fsos.org and select the special events page.

First Step of Sarasota is the region's leading non-profit provider of substance abuse prevention and recovery programs serving Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto Counties. Last year, First Step served over 8,500 through prevention programs and nearly 6,000 through detox, residential and outpatient programs.

To arrange an interview with First Step of Sarasota, contact Grapevine Communications at 941-351-0024 or email tlewis@grapeinc.com. Grapevine Communications is an award-winning advertising, marketing, and public relations firm based in Sarasota and serving clients nationwide.



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