



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **First Step Golf Classic Raises Funds For Addiction Recovery & Treatment**

SARASOTA, FL – About 140 golfers and friends helped raise money for addiction recovery and treatment programs at the First Step 4th Annual Golf Classic at TPC Prestancia. Among the highlights was the auctioning off of a football signed by former Buccaneers Doug Williams and Jimmy Giles, along with dinner for two with the two football greats, which was won by highest bidder Ole Sorenson.

First Step, now in its 40th year, offers both residential and outpatient programs. The event grossed more than \$24,000.

Last year, First Step served more than 15,000 adults and youths in its recovery and prevention programs. "Helping people complete a treatment program and begin a life in recovery is only a part of the challenge we face every day," said First Step President and CEO Dave Beesley. "Many times, our graduates are forced by their circumstances to return to the same environment that supported their use of alcohol and drugs. Our sober housing apartments offer First Step graduates a better option – a place where they are surrounded by others also working to live a life of recovery."

"Events like our golf tournament are important because they raise money while also educating members of the community about the services we provide," said Vice President of Development Donna Wolski. "Addiction is an equal-opportunity disease which attacks individuals regardless of age, race, ethnicity or economic status. Reports show that one in five Americans is affected by an addiction, whether his or her own addiction or that of a family member, friend or co-worker. First Step's goal is to help people prevent or overcome an addiction to alcohol or drugs. As the need for treatment increases, so does our First Step's need for increased financial support."



*Low net winners John Shepard, Terry Seiders,  
Lynn "Sandbagger" Shiring and Shane Sharbono*



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