

The Sarasota Sports Foundation

My Dear Friends and Readers of *Scene Magazine*,

One of the most influential activists for the rights of children said that, "If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much." Marian Edelman's powerful sentiment parallels my own. After all, in their innocence, they are vulnerable; in their simplicity, they are trusting; and in their stature, they are defenseless. They are born to play, to love, to create, and to be carefree in the belief they are in safe hands. But for many children, this sense of security does not exist—instead, they live in fear, often of those who should be their biggest champions. It is only through the intervention of organizations that work to prevent child abuse that the wonders, delights, and simple playfulness of childhood can be restored.

The Sarasota Sports Foundation is one of these organizations, committed to preventing child abuse, neglect and abandonment since its formation in January 2005. I have proudly served as an officer on its board of directors from the beginning, moved by not only the powerful mission, but also the compassion of the board. In this short time, we have raised more than one million dollars for organizations that treat abused children, educate about abuse prevention, and, ultimately, improve the lives of children and families—organizations we have determined are the most skilled at getting services to the neediest individuals. Simultaneously, we have kept our administrative expenses low in order to distribute almost all of the money raised at our two annual fundraising events to organizations aligned with our mission.

The Foundation was created by several community leaders including Graci McGillicuddy and Greg Band, and now operates under the direction of its President, Matt Drews of The Stanford Group, our most generous Presenting Sponsor. Along with Graci, Greg, Matt and board members Scott Libertore, Michael Welly, Vance Dickinson and Executive Director, Trish Fitzgerald, I am energized by the progress we have made in just two years. In this, our third year, we continue to challenge ourselves by working to increase public awareness of child abuse, expand our



Jennie Lascelle Famiglio


Board Member, Sarasota Sports Foundation

fundraising to a national level, and advocate for laws that protect children by being a valuable resource for local and national lawmakers. Through the efforts of our board and the support of our very generous community, we will continue to move the finish line as we attain each of these goals.

Our Official Sponsor, the Longboat Key Club and Resort, will host our Third Annual Celebrity Golf Gala and

Tournament on November 16 and 17. On Friday, the festivities will begin with a gala dinner, live auction, special entertainment, and the raffle of a new Porsche 911. On Saturday, a celebrity golf tournament pairs foursomes with world-class athletes including John Daly, Scotty Bowman, and Chad Bratzke, and game show host Chuck Woolery. You do not want to miss this weekend!

I believe that childhood should be magical.

As adults, many of us relive this magic through our children or grandchildren—but this enthusiasm is often tempered with thoughts of those who carry a burden heavier than any toy, the burden of child abuse. It is for this reason, I, and many others in the community, find so much meaning in the work of the Sarasota Sports Foundation. For all that you have done and all that you will do in the fight against child abuse, we thank you. 

Jennie Lascelle Famiglio

11-11-07 • Bowls of Hope

11:00 am. Soup Tasting Event. Philippi Estate Park. Benefiting All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota County. **941.379.6333**

11-15-07 • 5th Annual Girls Incorporated Angel Luncheon

11:00 am. Join Girls Inc. for an opportunity to visit their facility and learn more about the programs they offer. Guest will be asked to support Girls Incorporated's essential award-winning-programs. Girls Inc., 201 S. Tuttle Ave. **941.366.6646**

11-16-07, 11-17-07 • Sarasota Sports Foundation 3rd Annual Celebrity Gala & Celebrity Golf Classic

6:00 pm. Celebrity Gala features an elegant dinner, live and silent auctions, and live music performance. Celebrity Golf Classic tournament includes Island BBQ and hole-in-one for a 2008 Porsche. This foundation benefits the fight against child abuse, neglect and abandonment. **941.312.9049**



11-17-07 • Rock the Roof Party

6:00 pm. Cocktail lounge atmosphere, spectacular views of the city and bay at sunset. Dancing music and dinner from Michael's on



East. Rooftop of Lasula parking garage Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Proceeds benefit Sarasota Memorial's Bishopric Medical Library. **941.917.1286/www.smhf.org**

11-17-07 • Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County Carnival for Kids Dinner and Auction

5:30 pm. Largest fundraiser of the year. Silent and live auctions. Entertainment by the Billy Rice Band and Kool Breeze. Bradenton Auditorium. All proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County. Individual tickets \$200.



941.761.2582/www.bgcofmanatee.org

11-17-07 • Efest Green Living Music & Art Festival

9:30 am to 6:00 pm. A Healthy-N-Green Expo with more than 150 exhibitors, live music, over 25 food vendors, fun activities for children, and more. Sarasota Polo Club at Lakewood Ranch. **941.925.1290/www.efest.us**

