

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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All Star Line Up Announced for The Rounds at The Grounds benefitting The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Aug 4, 2014 – An all star line up will make up the roster for the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition’s **Rounds at the Grounds “All Stars”** exhibition softball game. The signature fundraising event is scheduled for Thursday, August 21st 2014, just before the Suns take on the Pensacola Blue Wahoos. The popular matchup, now in its fifth year, will challenge area medical professionals to take on popular community leaders from the First Coast. The competition will highlight the importance of getting the community to join together to reduce the area’s high infant mortality rate and improve the health of women, children and families in Northeast Florida.

This year’s theme “**All Stars**” also celebrates the great work of those who have supported the Coalition’s efforts. The all stars will be playing on the following teams; which have husband and wives competing against each other, a blogger versus a newspaper writer, a Congresswoman facing off against a quarterback and a former Jaguars showdown including a Jaguars Hall of Famer’s Mother.

RED TEAM

- Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent Duval County Schools
- Al Emerick, Television Personality, Al Emerick Productions
- Eden Kendall, Morning Co-Host on 99.9 Gator Country
- Apryl Shackelford, Dean of Students, Leadership Academy
- Matt Pittman, Matt About Jax
- Leon Baxton, COO, Communities in Schools
- Congresswoman, Corrine Brown
- Mike Hollis, Retired Jaguars Kicker '95-01'
- Candy Hodgkins, CEO, Gateway Community Services (Mother, former Jaguars Tony Boselli)

BLUE TEAM

- Kerry Speckman, Writer, Blogger and Social(media)ite
- Donna Orender, CEO, Orender Unlimited, Founder of Generation W
- Don Fox, CEO, Firehouse Subs
- Michael Boylan, President & CEO, WJCT
- Dave Widell, Retired Jaguars Center
- David Garrard, NFL Quarterback
- Joe Sampson, Executive Director & COO, One Spark
- Rachel Vitti, Community Advocate
- Dawn Emerick, Owner, Impact Partners
- Ron Natherson, EVP, Southern Oak Insurance, PLAYERS Chairman 2008

These community All Stars will join area medical professionals who will round out the teams. “We are very excited to have so many community leaders and health care providers in Northeast Florida supporting this event and the Coalition,” said Jennifer Gornto, Executive Director, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition. “Infant mortality is considered a sentinel indicator of the health of a community. The money raised for this event will help support the sustainability of key Coalition activities that improve the health of families living in Northeast Florida.” Sponsors for the Rounds at the Grounds “All Stars” exhibition softball game are Mayo Clinic, Wolfson Children’s Hospital, Nemours, Acosta, Alive Credit Union, WorldWide IT, UF Health, The DuBow Foundation, Brooks Rehabilitation, The LBA Group, Heritage Capital Group, Brennan, Manna & Diamond, P.L., Synovus Bank of Jacksonville, Nest Eggs and Southern Oak Insurance.

The **2014 Rounds at the Grounds “All Stars”** festivities are scheduled to begin at 4:45pm on Thursday, August 21st 2014, at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville, followed by the Suns versus the Pensacola Blue Wahoos. Tickets are specially priced at \$10.50 and can be purchased by visiting NEFHealthyStart.org/rounds. The game will last approximately one hour and admission to the Jacksonville Suns game is included. For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Charlene Shirk, Event Media Coordinator at 904-860-2991 or Charlene@charleneshirk.com.

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc. was organized in 1992 as part of a statewide network of community-based organizations to reduce Florida’s high infant mortality and improve the lives of pregnant women and their families. The group is governed by a volunteer board, which allocates state funding and provides oversight to local agencies that deliver services to pregnant women and families of newborns. The Coalition covers Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties.

For more information about the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition please go to nefhealthystart.org or for more information about tickets to Rounds at the Grounds please contact Sara Rieger at 904.723.5422, ext. 124 or srieger@nefhsc.org.

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