



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT
Tom Nagy
813.676.0071
tnagy@debartoloholdings.com

DEBARTOLO FAMILY FOUNDATION HONORS TRAVERSE WITH THE SPIRIT OF HUMANITY AWARD

Tampa, FL (November 12, 2007) – TRAVERSE (Trauma Resolution And Victims’ Essential Recovery Services) operates a therapeutic horsemanship program (“equine assisted psychotherapy”) for at-risk children, specifically, children who have experienced severe trauma or personal loss. The DeBartolo Family Foundation recognizes the humanitarian initiatives of Traverse and their dedication to these special Tampa Bay area children and their families, by honoring the organization with a \$10,000 donation along with the Spirit of Humanity Award.

Located in Thonotosassa, Florida, TRAVERSE encourages the at-risk children to participate in group therapy and riding instruction twice weekly, and are required to set personal, family, horse, and school goals. TRAVERSE professional staff members conduct the riding classes, group therapy sessions, and monitor each child’s progress carefully. Parents also participate in weekly group sessions that ultimately improve the child’s self-esteem while simultaneously eliminating personal pain and social isolation.

“The DeBartolo Family Foundation acknowledges the exceptional and inspirational therapeutic assistance that the TRAVERSE organization provides for these at-risk children. The TRAVERSE staff and child counselors truly embody the essence of what a grass-roots charitable organization stands for.” said Lisa DeBartolo, Executive Vice President, DeBartolo Holdings, LLC. “We congratulate and commend them for their devotion to these special children and their families.”

“Because we work so intensely with only six children and families every year, we receive very little recognition for our work from outside constituencies. It is, therefore, truly gratifying to be honored by such a prestigious organization as the DeBartolo Family Foundation. We get to see the kids grow and change and we get the "thank you's" from their parents but it is rewarding to be recognized by a truly prominent organization.” states Joseph Callan, Clinical Director, TRAVERSE. “The \$10,000 donation has been earmarked for repairing or rebuilding the stable and the arena. In fact, the arena has just been completely re-fenced thanks to the DeBartolo donation and to the United Way Hands On Tampa Volunteers from the City of Temple Terrace. Our kids and horses are now much safer. Renovations will begin on the stable and paddocks soon. All of this work will facilitate our reaccreditation as a NARHA Premier Center this year.”

For more information on Traverse, please call (813.980.3488) or visit their website at www.traversekids.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 or call the Foundation office at 813.964.8302.

###

(Note: Attached photo: DeBartolo Family Foundation Presents Spirit of Humanity Award to TRAVERSE. Shown: (From Left) Lisa DeBartolo, Executive Vice President, DeBartolo Holdings LLC, Joseph Callan, Clinical Director/Co-Founder, TRAVERSE, and Glenda Henderson, Equestrian Director/Co-Founder, TRAVERSE.