



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DEBARTOLO FAMILY FOUNDATION HONORS HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
SPECIAL OLYMPICS WITH SPIRIT OF HUMANITY AWARD**

Tampa, FL (March 14, 2011) – The DeBartolo Family Foundation is proud to recognize Hillsborough County Special Olympics with the 2010 Spirit of Humanity Award. The \$25,000 Spirit of Humanity Award honors non-profit corporations that provide extraordinary assistance to Tampa Bay residents with special needs.

Special Olympics was founded by Eunice Kennedy-Shriver in 1972 on the belief that people with intellectual disabilities can, with proper instruction and encouragement, benefit developmentally, socially and physically from participation in sports. The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for individuals 8 years of age and older with an Intellectual disability. It gives athletes continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and show their families, friends and the community that they have skills. Over 1,000 athletes, 200 coaches and 600 volunteers currently participate in Special Olympics Hillsborough County. All training and related equipment is provided without cost to the athletes and their families.

“My family has been involved in sports for a very long time and we understand the value sports bring to people’s lives,” said Lisa DeBartolo, Executive Vice President of DeBartolo Holdings, LLC. “Being part of a team enriches your life and teaches you important life lessons that can help you in school and later in your career. The DeBartolo Family Foundation is thrilled to help the Hillsborough County Special Olympics continue to help people with intellectual disabilities learn, enjoy and benefit from participation in individual and team sports.”

Since April 2002, more than 34 organizations have been recognized for their service to the community with the DeBartolo Family Foundation Spirit of Humanity Award.

ABOUT THE DEBARTOLO FAMILY FOUNDATION

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 high school 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 <http://debartolofamilyfoundation.com> or call the Foundation office at 813.964.8302.

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