

Children's Tumor Foundation Gala Raises More Than \$750,000 to Accelerate a Cure for Neurofibromatosis

Red Apple Group Chairman and CEO, John Catsimatidis, wife Margo, and Montefiore Medical Team Honored With Children's Humanitarian Award

New York, NY (November 8, 2007) - The Children's Tumor Foundation (CTF) raised a record-breaking amount of over \$750,000 at its annual Gala Benefit held on Nov. 7, 2007. Nearly 500 people gathered at Cipriani Wall Street in downtown Manhattan to support CTF's mission of accelerating a cure for Neurofibromatosis. The gala was the largest grossing event in the 30-year history of the foundation.

The Foundation presented John and Margo Catsimatidis with the Children's Humanitarian Award for their dedication to youth-based philanthropy. John Catsimatidis has served on the board of directors of New York's Police Athletic Leagues (PAL) since the 1984. Mr. Catsimatidis is also the co-founder of the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation Capitol Campaign, the first foundation in the country established on behalf of a public school.

Margo Catsimatidis is the founder and President of MCV Advertising in NYC, which she has built into one of the major print agencies in New York. She is the Co-Publisher of *The Hellenic Times*, and shares duties with her husband in all of philanthropic activities.

"It is our firm belief that we are all called to do our part to ensure that every child has the opportunity and chance to reach their potential," said Margo Catsimatidis. "Both John and I are committed to helping all children live life to the fullest and to empower the important work of organizations like the Children's Tumor Foundation – to make sure that happens."

Jane Hanson, former host of *Today in New York*, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Other guests included Dan Gilbert, Founder and Chairman of Quicken Loans, and the owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers; Steve Greenberg, co-founder of Classic Sports Network and former Deputy Commissioner of Major League Baseball; Stuart Match Suna, President of Silvercup Studios, the largest TV and film production facility in New York City; and Al Kahn, Chairman and CEO of 4 Kids Entertainment.

Martin Sexton (USA Today Top Ten Pick) performed a rousing set, drawing on songs from his recent album *Seeds*. Known for translating jazz, blues, rock and gospel forms into guitar-based folk, Sexton drew considerable attention from the crowd with his vocal range and uniquely crafted songs.

The NF Team at Montefiore Medical Center was honored for their work on individuals affected by the disorder. Presenting the award was Suzanne Fraser, mother of Aidan Fraser 8, an NF patient of the hospital. The NF Team at Montefiore removed a tumor from Aidan's spine that had left him paralyzed from the neck down. Aidan stood by his mother's side as she presented the award.

Proceeds from the event will be used to fund research for Neurofibromatosis (NF), a set of genetic disorders, which occurs in 1:3000 births. NF causes tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body, commonly in the brain and spine causing deafness, vision problems, and disfigurement. NF is more common than Cystic Fibrosis, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and Huntington's disease combined.

About The Children's Tumor Foundation: Founded in 1978, The Foundation is dedicated to improving the health and well being of more than 100,000 Americans living with neurofibromatosis (NF). Our research program has played a key role in the discovery of the genes that cause NF, understanding the biology of NF, creation of The NF Clinic Network and preclinical screening of promising drug compounds to treat NF.

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