

December 7, 2009

Jim Moran Classic Marks 25 Years of Creating Brighter Futures at the Youth Automotive Training Center



Pro Football Hall of Famer and legendary Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino (center) enjoyed a round of golf during the Jim Moran Classic with (from left) Michael & Bonnie Saxton and Peggy & Pat Ward of The Cross Country Group, presenting sponsor of the Classic.

Deerfield Beach and Orlando, Fla. -- Celebrating its 25th year of changing lives, the Youth Automotive Training Center (YATC) in Deerfield Beach — established in 1984 by automotive legend and JM Family Enterprises founder Jim Moran — has helped give a jump start in life to almost 500 at-risk youth, including Maxu Daceus, 26, who graduated from YATC in 2002. When Daceus heard about the program through a neighborhood police officer and mentor at age 18, he was a high school dropout and had been using drugs since he was 11 years old. He ran with a crowd that stole cars and robbed stores and admitted that his life “was not on a good road.”

“When I got to YATC, I couldn’t believe that this was real, that they were telling the truth and really wanted to help me as much as they did,” Daceus said. “I felt the love, the sincerity of the instructors. Because I found this program, my life has changed. I would not be where I am today without YATC and Jim Moran.”

Today, Daceus is a full-time automotive technician at Maroone Volvo in Delray Beach. Married and the proud father of a 5-year-old daughter, he has a long list of goals he wants to achieve, including continuing his education. He spoke to the many sponsors and celebrities who came together recently at the 2009 Jim Moran Classic in Orlando to support YATC and raise funds for the school, and he thanked them for their desire to help troubled young people like himself. Among those in attendance were sports greats Dan Marino, Joe Montana, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Mike Schmidt, Jason Taylor and generous donors who participated in the Classic held at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress on Nov. 13 & 14.



Maxu Daceus (left), a 2002 YATC graduate and Jim Moran Classic guest speaker, joined golf legend and longtime friend of YATC Chi Chi Rodriguez on the golf course.

The individual and corporate contributions raised from the 2009 Jim Moran Classic will fully fund the program’s annual operating budget for another year, allowing YATC to continue

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training and educating students in basic automotive repair skills, academic remediation, job readiness and life management skills.

“YATC is grateful to each and every donor and longtime supporter for helping us continue to teach our students a trade, give them an education and come to believe in themselves,” said Terry Routley, the school’s executive director. “It’s because of their dedication and commitment that so many lives are being changed in such a positive way.”



National Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt (far left) and Miami Dolphins linebacker Jason Taylor (second from right) joined (from left) YATC Executive Director Terry Routley and graduates Joel Antoinette and Maxu Daceus (far right) at the Jim Moran Classic benefiting YATC.

Since its founding in 1984, YATC has evolved from a one-room training center into a 16,000 square-foot modern facility featuring technical and academic classrooms, a computer learning center/library, state-of-the-art automotive shop, conference room, lunch room and fitness room. YATC also offers its graduates continuing assistance needed to keep them on the right track for success throughout their lives.

Joel Antoinette, a 1990 YATC graduate who has earned numerous certifications in marine maintenance and works as a freelance engineer for both commercial and private vessels, thanked supporters at the Classic for their part in the way his life has turned out.

Having used his YATC training as a stepping stone to a fulfilling career that has enabled him to travel the world, Antoinette told the banquet crowd of 850, “I’ve found myself in places I never could have imagined. This all came from the YATC program and I have so much appreciation for everyone who makes it what it is. Thank you so much.” Antoinette expresses his gratitude for the help YATC gave him by returning to the school several times a year to talk to the students and use his experiences to encourage and inspire them.

Anthony Mitchell, a current YATC student who dropped out of high school to help support a family of 12, also spoke at the event. He had become involved in drugs and crime and admitted, “I was running wild,” but after learning about the program while in a substance abuse treatment program, he realized “I wanted to go to YATC because I thought it was a chance for me to do something in my life.” Mitchell is now working hard to overcome his adversities and is hopeful about his future. “I feel like I’m on the right road now,” he explained.



YATC student and Classic Banquet guest speaker Anthony Mitchell (right) was welcomed by Jan Moran, wife of YATC Founder Jim Moran, at the Classic Reception.

The 2009 Jim Moran Classic Presenting Sponsor was The Cross Country Group, a significant contributor to YATC since the school was founded. Big Heart Sponsors included 22squared; ADESA; Auto Carrier Express, Inc.; Centurion Auto Logistics, Inc.; Dell; Ken Hall; Jan Moran; O’Brien Auto Team; Tire Kingdom, Merchant’s Tire & Auto Centers,

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NTB & Big O Tires; and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. Grand Sponsors included AT&T; Package Pick-Up of FL, Inc.; Reynolds and Reynolds; and Bruce Rossmeier's Daytona Harley-Davidson & Daytona Toyota.



The Rossmeier family presented raffle winner Scott Williamson (seated) with a 2010 Harley-Davidson FLTRX Road Glide Custom donated by Bruce Rossmeier's Daytona Harley-Davidson and Daytona Toyota.

To honor the memory of Bruce Rossmeier, a longtime friend and loyal supporter of YATC and the Classic who passed away earlier this year, Jan Moran established the Bruce Rossmeier Memorial Kick Start Scholarship Fund at YATC to assist graduates who want to pursue their education at a vocational or technical school. Bruce Rossmeier's Daytona Harley-Davidson and Daytona Toyota donated a 2010 Harley-Davidson FLTRX Road Glide Custom as a raffle prize, which was presented to winner Scott Williamson by the Rossmeier family during the Classic Banquet. All proceeds from the raffle were donated to the new scholarship fund.

"My husband wanted to give kids, who everyone else had given up on, a second chance for a

brighter future," said Jan Moran. "The friendship and extraordinary generosity of the Rossmeier family and all of YATC's other sponsors, friends and volunteers during these challenging economic times means so very much for the continuing success of the school and its students."

Nearly 40 athletes volunteered their time during the Jim Moran Classic, including National Baseball Hall of Famer Steve Carlton and Miami Dolphins legend Earl Morrall. More than 350 golfers joined pros and longtime friends of YATC Chi Chi Rodriguez and Mark Pfeil for the golf clinic and tournament, while close to 40 tennis players participated in the tennis clinic and tournament with former champions and tour veterans John Lloyd, Duby Petrovich, Wendy Turnbull and Virginia Wade.



Tennis pros (from left) Duby Petrovich, John Lloyd and Virginia Wade took turns volleying with participants during the Tennis Clinic.

Raffle prizes included a 2010 Toyota Prius, donated by JM Family Enterprises, Inc. and Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC, won by Jeff Cooper and a Mystery Raffle prize of a Las Vegas travel package won by Kathie Cooke.

For more information about YATC, visit www.yatc.org or contact Hillary Gurman at 954-428-0909 or yatcgurm@bellsouth.net.

About the Youth Automotive Training Center

Established by Jim Moran in 1984, the mission of the Youth Automotive Training Center is to train and educate at-risk youth in basic automotive repair skills, academic remediation, job readiness and life management skills. The goal of this program is to prepare young adults

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who are at a disadvantage in their lives to become self-sufficient, productive, law-abiding citizens. Students are referred to YATC in a variety of ways, including through the Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Children and Families, as well as YATC graduates, local clergy and word of mouth.

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