



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Make a Wish Foundation Brings Back Annual
“Night of the Iguana” Featuring Tampa Bay Restaurants**
*Event to raise funds for 10 wishes and introduce wish child Kate,
Cold Stone Creamery Junior Tastemaster™*

Tampa, Fla. (August 2010) – The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Northern Florida, Suncoast Region, is hosting its 14th annual food and beverage sampling event, Night of the Iguana, on Friday, October 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the new Mainsail Suites Hotel & Conference Center in Tampa.

This year’s festivity features wish child Kate, an 11-year-old Tampa native who suffers from a congenital spinal cord condition. Kate recently completed her wish to develop a new Cold Stone Creamery Creation™ for the 9th Annual World’s Largest Ice Cream Social on September 30, 2010. Kate’s Creation™ will be available in all Cold Stone Creamery locations nationwide throughout the month of September and given away at the social. Additionally, funds raised from Kate’s Creation will help grant wishes for other children. During Night of the Iguana, guests will hear from Kate directly as she speaks about her experience as a Junior Tastemaster and how her “wish day at Cold Stone was the most delicious day of [her] life.”

After a brief hiatus in 2009, the tropical-themed Night of the Iguana returns with live entertainment including an array of performers, cocktails, live and silent auctions. More than 20 of Tampa Bay’s elite restaurants will showcase signature dishes for guests to enjoy. The Tampa Chapter of Credit Unions, **MarketingDirection.com**, Tiffany & Co., Maggiano’s, Brio Tuscan Grille, Wildwood BBQ & Burger / Postcard Inn, AquaKnox, Donatello, Ruth’s Chris, The Melting Pot, The NoHo Bistro, Pepin Distributing, Shakers Vodka, and the Green Iguana in Ybor City are among those partnering with Make-A-Wish in support of the event’s mission—to raise funds for more than 10 wishes in the Suncoast region. The average cost of a wish is \$7,000 and all proceeds go directly towards granting the wishes of local children with life-threatening medical conditions.

“Night of the Iguana is much more than an exciting way to spend a Friday night in Tampa Bay; it’s a chance to pair fine cuisine with a great cause and share the power of a wish®,” says Lisa Andrews, Regional Director of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Northern Florida, Suncoast Region. “Our mission is to grant more than 85 wishes this year to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy for incredible children like Kate.” Kate’s wish was made possible through the support of her community at events such as Night of the Iguana and has had a lasting impact. Her mother, Kristi,

says, “seeing Kate’s wish fulfilled was a dream come true for the whole family, to make her feel so special.”

Tickets for the Make-A-Wish Foundation’s Night of the Iguana are \$85 and can be purchased by visiting <http://nightoftheiguana.wishcentral.org> or by calling (813) 288-2600. A limited number of reserved tables are available upon request for groups of 10 people. Sponsorship and restaurant opportunities are also available.

About the Make-A-Wish Foundation

Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2010, the Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. With the help of generous donors and nearly 25,000 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation grants a wish every 40 minutes and has granted more than 193,000 wishes in the United States since its inception. The Make-A-Wish Foundation is now the largest wish-granting charity in the world.

The Central and Northern Florida chapter encompasses 54 counties serving two-thirds of the state including the Suncoast region’s Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties. For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Suncoast region, visit www.wishcentral.org and discover how to share the power of a wish®.

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