



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECEIVE SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFTS**

*The DeBartolo Family Foundation and The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department  
Sponsor Christmas Luncheon for Local Children*

**TAMPA, Fla.** – December, 13, 2004 - “You make our lives so much easier,” and “I appreciate you caring so much about our children.” These comments were made by numerous guests of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Department and the DeBartolo Family Foundation during the annual Christmas Luncheon that supports Tampa’s Family Enrichment Center. The Enrichment Center is a non-profit, community based, minority owned, social service agency that provides a variety of family centered programs.

The luncheon was held from 1:00pm to 3:00pm, December 11 in Plant Hall, on the University of Tampa campus. Forty four deserving children from 15 Tampa Bay area families involved with the Family Enrichment Center were given special Christmas gifts. Santa Claus presented gifts to the children including bicycles, electronic equipment and an assortment of toys and games. Nearly 100 people attended the holiday event.

The holiday initiative was spearheaded by Freddie Solomon, a two-time Super Bowl champion with the San Francisco 49ers and now an active community liaison with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Department, his wife Dee and the Edward J. DeBartolo Jr. Family. This is the eleventh year Mr. Solomon has organized Christmas programs on behalf of the Sheriff’s Department.

“We are here today to celebrate the season with the children of our community,” states Lisa DeBartolo, executive director of the DeBartolo Family Foundation. “We want to reassure these children that we care about them very much.”

“Life is a wonderful experience and children are the most important part of each of our lives,” said Nikki DeBartolo Heldfond, of the DeBartolo Family Foundation. “Our foundation works year-round to support organizations such as the Family Enrichment Center.”

This season marks the fourth consecutive year for the DeBartolo Family Foundation’s participation with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Department and the Family Enrichment Center.

The DeBartolo Family Foundation is a non-profit organization 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 special needs and presents the Spirit of Humanity Award, honoring non-profit organizations that provide extraordinary assistance to Tampa Bay residents with special needs. For more information, visit the Foundation’s web site at [www.debartolofamilyfoundation.com](http://www.debartolofamilyfoundation.com) or call the Foundation office at 813.964.8302.

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