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## Jim Moran Classic Gives Kids A Jump Start In Life



*Graduate guest speaker Frandy Robert (Class of 2001) shared with Jim Moran Classic sponsors and guests how the Youth Automotive Training Center changed his life.*

**Deerfield Beach, Fla. –** Before attending the Youth Automotive Training Center (YATC), Frandy Robert never believed he would make it to age 25. Robert was a troubled teenager selling drugs on the street with little hope for his future, when the late Johnny Punn – a Delray Beach police officer at the time – introduced him to YATC. “Instead of just trying to lock up some bad kids, he saw something different in us. But when you’re selling drugs, you don’t want to be friends with the police, so I said ‘no, thank you.’” After witnessing the success of other neighborhood youth who were students at the training center, he decided to apply to the tuition-free, hands-on program located in Deerfield Beach, Fla. As a graduate of the 2001 Class, he has turned his life around. Robert shared his story as a special guest speaker at the 2008 Jim Moran Classic, the major annual fundraiser for YATC.

“Before I went to YATC, if someone had asked me about my future, I would have said ‘I don’t know’ because I never thought I would make it,” Robert said. Now a company supervisor and field technician, the young man credits the training he received at YATC with helping him accomplish his dream to get off the streets and work on engines. “I know Mr. Moran is no longer here with us, but I want to thank him for what he did for me, for giving me a chance in my life.”

Established by Jim Moran, the founder of diversified automotive company JM Family Enterprises, Inc., YATC is a one-of-a-kind educational and automotive training center. Since 1984, YATC has helped more than 460 at-risk youth prepare for brighter futures by providing them with the

opportunity to learn a trade, as well as equip them with the tools they need to accomplish their goals. YATC assists students with transportation to their classes and provides daily lunches, as well as professional tool sets they can keep. Counseling and support remain available to graduates throughout their careers to make sure they stay on the road to success.

“My husband, Jim, created YATC because he believed that it would make a real difference in the lives of young people who needed help,” said Jan Moran. “I know he would be very happy with the continued support of our many friends, sponsors and volunteers. It’s because of their generosity, even in these challenging times, that these kids have been given a second chance to become productive members of our community.”

Nearly 500 individual and corporate contributions to the 2008 Jim Moran Classic have fully funded the program’s annual operating budget for another year. This annual event took place November 14 and 15 at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress in Orlando, Fla. Major sponsors included: Super Big Heart Sponsor, The Cross Country Group; Big Heart Sponsors, 22squared, Auto Carrier Express, Inc., Centurion Auto Logistics, Inc., Dell,



Ken Hall, O'Brien Auto Team, Inc., Tire Kingdom and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and Grand Sponsors, ADESA, AT&T, Black Book, INViSiON Industries Incorporated, Package Pick-Up of FL and Reynolds and Reynolds.

Top raffle prizes included a 2009 Toyota Venza won by John O'Donoghue, a \$20,000 cash prize awarded to Joe Meininger and the Mystery Prize – a Harley-Davidson motorcycle donated by Bruce Rossmeyer's Daytona Harley-Davidson, Bruce Rossmeyer's Ft. Lauderdale Harley-Davidson and Daytona Toyota – taken home by Steven Atkinson.



*Golf pro Chi Chi Rodriguez (left) and legendary Miami Dolphins quarterback Earl Morrall, both longtime friends of the Youth Automotive Training Center, exchanged tips at the 2008 Jim Moran Classic golf clinic.*

More than 40 major celebrities volunteered their time during the Jim Moran Classic, including sports legends Dan Marino, Joe Montana, Earl Morrall, Mike Schmidt and Jason Taylor. Four hundred golfers joined pros and long-time supporters Chi Chi Rodriguez and Mark Pfeil for the golf clinic and tournament, while more than 40 tennis players traded tips and volleys with Wendy Turnbull, Hana Mandlikova, Lori McNeil and Duby Petrovich during the tennis clinic and tournament.

Frandy Robert, along with YATC graduate Bernard Jones (Class of 1985), personally thanked the more than 1,000 Jim Moran Classic sponsors and guests for making the YATC program possible. "When you come from the streets like I did and you try to make a change in your life, there's a lot of peer pressure and it's tough," Robert explained. But because a Delray Beach police officer and YATC believed in his potential, "Now," he gratefully acknowledged, "I have a beautiful daughter, a career and a wonderful fiancée."

### **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 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 Departments of Juvenile Justice and Children and Families, as well as YATC graduates, local clergy and word of mouth.

For more information about the Youth Automotive Training Center, visit [www.yatc.org](http://www.yatc.org) or contact Hillary Gurman, Community Relations Manager at (954) 428-0909 or at [yatcgurm@bellsouth.net](mailto:yatcgurm@bellsouth.net). YATC is located at 399 SW Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Deerfield Beach, Florida.

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