

December 16, 2010

Jim Moran Classic Helps Provide Second Chances for Students and Grads at the Youth Automotive Training Center



Longtime friends of YATC, Sid and Deanna Wolk (center) of The Cross Country Group received a very special Super Big Heart Award, presented by Jan Moran and Dick Knox, president emeritus of the YATC Board of Directors.

Deerfield Beach and Orlando, Fla. – Kewuan Jones lost his father to a drug overdose in 1995. His family struggles to get by on Social Security checks. Behavioral issues led to his suspension or expulsion from four different schools. Jones has a history of substance abuse and his police record includes theft, trespassing, drug possession and battery.

But while listening to this 18-year-old Youth Automotive Training Center (YATC) student speak to an audience of close to 850 guests at the 2010 Jim Moran Classic in Orlando, you didn't hear frustration from a past of crime and misdirection — but rather, optimism for a brighter future.

“My instructors make me think there isn't anything I can't do, and because of that, today I am on the right path toward success,” said Jones, who was referred to YATC by his counselors from Pine Ridge Education Center in Fort Lauderdale. Of Jim Moran, the school's Founder, Jones said, “I never met Mr. Moran, but I wish I could have, so that I could thank him for creating YATC. I will make him smile by doing the best I can.”

Jones and two YATC graduates, Joel Diaz and Ed Carmona, were selected to be guest speakers at the annual Jim Moran Classic, held at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress on November 12 & 13 to raise funds and awareness for the school. Diaz, a 2009 graduate of YATC, shared his story of how he came to the program. Growing up in a broken home in a tough neighborhood, he began stealing as a youth and was eventually arrested for armed robbery and charged as an adult. By the time he was 17, Diaz had served time in a juvenile detention center, county jail and boot camp.



Kewuan Jones, a current YATC student and Jim Moran Classic guest speaker, shared how the school is changing his life by turning him away from negative influences and onto a path to success.



(From left) YATC graduates and Jim Moran Classic guest speakers Joel Diaz (Class of 2009) and Ed Carmona (Class of 2005) and current student Kewuan Jones (second from right) with golf greats and dedicated friends of YATC Chi Chi Rodriguez and Mark Pfeil.

While in boot camp he realized he had no choice but to change the course of his life. His brother had graduated from YATC in 2008, and Diaz hoped the program would provide him with the guidance he desperately needed and a chance to learn more about what he loved most — cars.

Today, Diaz works full time at JM Lexus and is on track to graduate from the Automotive Service Technology Program at Palm Beach State College. “I will always be so grateful,” Diaz said. “I would never have accomplished half of what I have without YATC and its staff.”

Ed Carmona, a 2005 YATC graduate, explained how the school helped him turn from selling drugs and breaking into homes to learning about cars and planning for a brighter future. Since graduation, Carmona has worked for Advance Auto Parts, earned an associate’s degree from Valencia Community College in Orlando and is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in chemistry at the University of Florida in Gainesville. “It all started with YATC. I really thought I had no resources in life until I came to YATC, and they stuck with me.”

Established in 1984 by automotive legend and JM Family Enterprises Founder Jim Moran, 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, lunchroom and fitness room. In addition to teaching at-risk youth basic automotive repair, the program also provides students with academic remediation and training in job readiness and life management skills.

“My husband believed in giving people a second chance, and he started YATC to offer youth an alternative to the streets or a life of crime,” said Jan Moran. “To hear these great success stories would make him so very proud to know that the kids’ school continues to have such a positive impact in our community.” Since it opened its doors, 515 students have completed the program and 111 have received their GEDs. More than 90 percent of graduates are gainfully employed, furthering their education or have joined the armed forces. Graduates of the model program, along with their families, continue to receive assistance to keep them on the right track for success.



Former NBA All-Star Artis Gilmore (third from right) was joined by (from left) Michael Saxton and Pat & Peggy Ward of The Cross Country Group, Founding Sponsor of the Jim Moran Classic, Jan Moran, Bonnie Saxton and Colin Brown of JM Family Enterprises and member of the YATC Board of Directors.



Tennis pro Doby Petrovich offered tips and instruction to players prior to the round robin tournament and participated in an exhibition match with tennis celebrities Wendy Turnbull, John Lloyd and Virginia Wade.

“YATC is able to help kids turn their lives around, learn a trade, strengthen their minds and believe in themselves because of the ongoing support of our sponsors and donors,” said Terry Routley, the school’s executive director. “Their enormous generosity is helping us make a real difference.” The 2010 Classic raised enough funds to cover the annual operating budget of YATC for next year.

More than 360 individuals and corporations contributed to the Classic, including Founding Sponsor The Cross Country Group, whose President and CEO, Sid Wolk, and his wife, Deanna, were presented with a special

plaque commemorating their longtime support of YATC and the Jim Moran Classic. Other generous supporters included Super Big Heart Sponsor Jan Moran; Big Heart Sponsors 22squared; ADESA; Auto Carrier Express, Inc.; Centurion Auto Logistics, Inc.; Dell; Ken Hall; O’Brien Auto Team; Tire Kingdom / Merchant’s / NTB / Big O Tires; and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. Grand Sponsors included: AT&T; CEVA; EMC Corporation; Bruce Rossmeyer’s Daytona Harley-Davidson, Bruce Rossmeyer’s Ft. Lauderdale Harley-Davidson & Daytona Toyota Scion.

Throughout the weekend, guests participated in golf and tennis tournaments alongside 36 sports greats who volunteered their time for YATC, including Joe Montana, Jim Kelly, Jason Taylor, Andre Dawson, Thurman Thomas, Earl Morrall, Mike Schmidt, Gary Carter and Anthony Muñoz. The golf clinic was conducted by World Golf Hall of Famer Chi Chi Rodriguez and golf pro Mark Pfeil. Australian Tennis Hall of Famer Wendy Turnbull, International Tennis Hall of Famer Virginia Wade and pros John Lloyd and Doby Petrovich led the tennis clinic and tournament.

JM Family Enterprises and Southeast Toyota Distributors donated a 2011 Scion tC for the raffle prize, which was presented by JM Family President and CEO Colin Brown to winner Tom Lumpkin, a JM Family associate. Proceeds from the silent auction of a 2010 Harley-Davidson FLSTFB Fat Boy Lo motorcycle donated by Bruce Rossmeyer’s Daytona Harley-Davidson and Bruce Rossmeyer’s Ft. Lauderdale Harley-Davidson raised funds for the Bruce Rossmeyer Memorial Kick Start Scholarship Fund at YATC to assist graduates who want to pursue their education at a vocational or technical school.



Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana and New York Jets linebacker Jason Taylor presented closest-to-the-pin winner John Clancy with the Pebble Beach golf package prize.



National Baseball Hall of Famers (back row, from left) Mike Schmidt, Andre Dawson and Gary Carter with (front row, from left) current YATC student Kewuan Jones, YATC Executive Director Terry Routley and YATC graduates Joel Diaz and Ed Carmona

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, 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.

Media Contact:

Christie Caliendo

954-363-6285

Christie.Caliendo@jmfamily.com

###