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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**6TH ANNUAL HATS & HANDBAGS RAISES MORE THAN \$24,000 FOR
STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION**

*Proceeds to help Starlight bring entertainment, education and family activities
to Florida's seriously ill children*

-Photos Available Upon Request-

Fort Lauderdale, FL – Starlight Children's Foundation's 6th Annual Hats & Handbags, A Classic English Afternoon Tea, raised more than \$24,000 to support Florida's seriously children and their families. The event, presented by Rick Case Automotive Group, took place Sunday, May 1, 2011, at the elegant Diplomat Golf Resort & Spa in Hallandale Beach. CBS4 Neighbors4Neighbors reporter Nicole Maristany served as emcee.

Having attracted a crowd of more than 225 women, the Tea festivities began with a boutique sale where guests shopped from a wide array of home goods and unique custom-made handbags, jewelry and other accessories for their spring and summer wardrobes. In addition to shopping, the event also featured fabulous food and scrumptious teas, live youth entertainment by up-and-coming teen singer Joshua Grosso of American Heritage High School, and special guest speaker and Starlight teen Caroline Larena, who, with the help of a friend, shared how Starlight's online community Starbright World (www.starbrightworld.org) touched her life by connecting her to other seriously ill teens across the country.

Event co-chairs Susan Baer and Barbara Day agreed: "Hats & Handbags proved the perfect excuse for a day of fun with girlfriends and family. All guests looked forward to donning their most fabulous hats and carrying their most fantastic handbags!"

"Hats & Handbags is much more than a perfect afternoon of shopping and tea," said Mary Ensor, Development Coordinator, Starlight Florida. "It is about the seriously ill children and families whose lives are touched by Starlight every day. Thanks to this year's generous sponsors, event attendees and energetic committee, Starlight can continue help seriously ill kids focus with what they do best – be kids."

Sponsorship support for Hats & Handbags was also provided by Baer's Furniture, Blue Martini, Broward Health, Floridian Community Bank, Andrew Goldstein Photography, PSAV Presentation Services, Lifestyles Magazines and Best Rental Services..

About Starlight Children's Foundation Florida

When a child or teenager has a serious medical condition, everyone in the family is affected. For more than 25 years, Starlight Children's Foundation has dedicated itself to helping seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities. Starlight's programs have been proven to distract children from their pain, help them better understand and manage their illnesses, and connect families facing similar challenges so that no one feels alone. Serving more than 7,400 children and their families each month throughout the state of Florida, Starlight's array of outpatient, hospital-based and Web offerings provide ongoing support for children and families — before, during and after medical treatment. To learn more visit www.starlight.org/florida.

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