



***HOPE FLIES: CATCH THE CURE* CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH FOR THE FOUNDATION FOR MITOCHONDRIAL MEDICINE**

Inaugural Event Raises More than \$200,000 in the Quest for a Cure for Mitochondrial Disease

ATLANTA, GA – September 15, 2010, The Atlanta-based Foundation for Mitochondrial Medicine is pleased to announce the overwhelming success of its launch and initial fundraising efforts at its sold-out, inaugural event, ***Hope Flies: Catch the Cure***, which was recently held on September 11. The more than \$200,000 raised in proceeds from Hope Flies' ticket sales, donations, auction and raffle will benefit the Foundation for Mitochondrial Medicine (FMM) and its mission to find treatments and ultimately a cure for Mitochondrial Disease. FMM is the first non-profit organization to financially support research that is directly applicable to the treatment of mitochondrial-diseases.

"We are thrilled by the unprecedented success of Hope Flies," says D. John Shoffner, M.D., founder of The Foundation for Mitochondrial Medicine. "This outpouring of support inspires our research and our patients. Awareness is the key. As people begin to understand the importance of this work to the lives of many patients affected by mitochondrial diseases, they will understand how these diseases touch their own lives through diseases like mitochondrial disease, Parkinson disease, autism, chronic fatigue syndromes, and many types of childhood developmental delays. According to the Center for Disease Control, 17% of children have a developmental or behavioral disability such as autism and intellectual disabilities (also known as mental retardation). Although difficult diseases, no one can do this alone-not the researchers and not the patients. Our group is dedicated to helping the children and adults with these diseases and are honored to have the support of so many."

Over 500 guests attended Hope Flies and enjoyed a fabulous, fun-filled and philanthropic evening of cocktails and dancing, organized and chaired by Atlanta residents, Lane and Richard Courts and their volunteer host committee. The event was held in the Terminus 200 building in Buckhead in space generously donated by event sponsor Cousins Properties Incorporated and decorated by Kimberly Cary Event Design. The evening featured culinary delights by Endive, and guests danced the night away to the tunes of Atlanta's own Yacht Rock Revue. Among the evening's highlights was a live auction which featured fabulous lots, including a specially, signed Fender Stratocaster John Mayer guitar, signed Braves jerseys and unique, behind the scenes Braves experiences, an African safari trip, a private luncheon with best-selling author Emily Giffin, a luxury apartment stay in Paris and much more. Guests also had the chance to win a selection of incredible, themed raffle baskets with items of interest to all.

Corporate sponsors for *Hope Flies* include: Air Tran Airways, Arnall, Golden, Gregory, LLP, Boyd, Collar, Nolen & Tuggle, Buzz, Cousins Properties Incorporated, Endive, Georgia Sign Company, Global Payments Inc., Junior Diplomat International Homestays, Katerina Fullen, specializing in children's photography, Kimberley Cary Event Design, The (k)larity Group, Medical Neurogenetics, Neiman Marcus, National Distributors, and Wallace Design Company.

The Foundation for Mitochondrial Medicine (FMM) is the Atlanta-based, non-profit organization solely dedicated to the cures for mitochondrial diseases. With support from prominent Board members, including Dr. John Shoffner, molecular neurogeneticist and internationally-renowned mitochondrial disease expert, and Mr. Frank Wren, General Manager for the Atlanta Braves, FMM is the first mitochondrial-disease non-profit organization to financially support the first steps in the treatment of mitochondrial diseases with new drugs. FMM's goal is to use the funds it raises to expand the accessibility of treatments in development and support clinical trials for treatment, thereby widening the reach to a greater number of patients at a more rapid pace. Learn more at www.foundmm.org.

Mitochondrial diseases are complex disorders that impair the body's ability to adequately produce energy. This impairment of energy production can have significant adverse effects on the development and function of major systems like the heart, muscle, and brain. Today, 1 in 3-4,000 people are being diagnosed with mitochondrial diseases, and many more are likely affected. Research now shows significant links between mitochondrial diseases and a broad array of diseases that affect all ages, such as Autism, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Lou Gehrig's (ALS) disease, muscular dystrophies, chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia syndromes. Clearly developing cures for mitochondrial diseases will impact the treatment of many diseases that affect adults and children. Make your donations count. Support the treatment of many important diseases by supporting the treatment of mitochondrial diseases.

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