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Tackling Asthma™ Across Missouri with the Asthma Team™

--The Chris Draft Family Foundation's Asthma Team™ to Support St. Louis Asthma Agencies on March 7--

March 3, 2009 - St. Louis, MO. Rams linebacker Chris Draft will bring the Missouri Asthma Team™ together for a special day of events to support St. Louis agencies, the American Lung Association and the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of St. Louis. Saturday's events will mark the first coordinated effort of the Missouri Asthma Team™ to support existing agencies united in an attempt to bring awareness to the newly designated Asthma Capital for 2009.

According to Chris Draft, "As a team, we will not accept where we are. We will work together as the Missouri Asthma Team™ to tackle asthma and lung disease across the state of Missouri." The Asthma Team™ is a nationwide coalition of concerned individuals and agencies who seek to promote awareness and education. In 2009, St. Louis jumped from the 9th worst city for asthma sufferers to the #1 city in the span of 1 year. The Missouri Asthma Team™ will work diligently to support any and all existing agencies and individuals to empower them to better their surroundings and ranking to ensure a better quality of life for children and families in St. Louis.

Chris Draft will serve as a Celebrity Climber for the second year in a row at the American Lung Association's Master the Met competitive stairclimb event. This year, he will join another Celebrity Climber, Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, co-sponsor of the Winning with Asthma Campaign and member of the Missouri Asthma Team™. As the lead-off climbers, Draft, Kinder and the other members of the Asthma Team™ will race up the 42 floor Metropolitan Square building, the tallest building in St. Louis. Asthma Team™ members who will join the climb include Emily Pike who serves as the AAFA Programs Director, Mario Castro from the Asthma Consortium of St. Louis, Peggy Gaddy from the Missouri Department of Health, a representative from the City of St. Louis Department of Health and Terry Plain from the Missouri Foundation for Health.

Following the morning's stairclimb, the Chris Draft and the Asthma Team™ will attend the AAFA's Orchid Ball, a premiere black-tie event founded in 1991. The Orchid Ball, held in March each year, traditionally begins with cocktails and a silent auction, followed by a sit-down dinner, live auction and entertainment. The orchid is the symbol of the ball because it is one of the flowers to which no one is allergic. The 2009 Orchid Ball, presented by Anheuser-Busch Companies, will be held at the St. Louis Hilton at the Ballpark. Event chairs, Dave and Anne Birkenmeier and honorary chair, Mayor Francis Slay, will host this fabulous night which includes a silent auction, live auction, dinner and dancing.

About Master the Met:

Master the Met is a fundraising event for the American Lung Association. Funds raised will go to support the American Lung Association's mission: The American Lung Association is dedicated to the prevention, control and cure of lung diseases such as asthma, lung cancer, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, influenza and pneumonia, and we fight for tobacco control and clean air through education, research and advocacy. This year, the fundraising goal for the Master the Met event is to raise \$300,000.

About the Orchid Ball:

AAFA's Orchid Ball is a premiere black-tie event founded in 1991. The orchid is the symbol of the ball because it is one of the flowers to which no one is allergic. Three awards are given each year at the Ball. The Orchid Award, the most prestigious award given by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation, is presented to an individual who has illustrated a tremendous commitment to the Foundation's service program, mission and goals. The Jane Harris Memorial Award is presented annually to a volunteer demonstrating exceptional commitment to AAFA. The AAFA Corporate Award is presented annually to a corporation that has distinguished itself with exceptional financial support for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, St. Louis Chapter.

About the Chris Draft Family Foundation:

The mission of the Chris Draft Family Foundation is to strengthen communities by empowering families to live healthy lifestyles. The Foundation focuses on seven primary initiatives with overarching themes that stress the importance of education, healthy lifestyles, character development, personal responsibility, self-discipline and physical fitness. In the spirit of the Foundation's logo, inspired by a painting called "The Journey", the Chris Draft Family Foundation actively pursues partnerships with individuals, families and organizations. On "The Journey" to change the world for the better, merging our different paths and perspectives powers our mission and strengthens our commitment to improvement and ensures the success of our actions. For more information, please visit our website:

www.chrisdraftfamilyfoundation.org.

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