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## NEWS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Balls Drop From Helicopter As First Step of Sarasota Raises Over \$27,000 Through 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament.**

SARASOTA/MANATEE, FL (May 11, 2010) – First Step of Sarasota held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic on Friday, April 30, at Legacy Golf Club in Lakewood Ranch, an event which raised more money for the organization than in the past two years. Proceeds from the tournament benefit First Step's addiction recovery and treatment programs.

Chaired by Evan Guido, Financial Advisor with Robert W. Baird & Co., the event had a First Step record of 121 golfers and raised over \$27,000. Low gross tournament winners were Matt Arnold, Sam Guercio, Christian Bartolacci and Carl Wakely. Low net winners were Steve French, Bob French, Jim Young and Gene Brown. In addition to golf, the event featured a 50/50 raffle that included dropping almost 200 numbered golf balls from a helicopter hovering over the practice green. The golf ball drop 50/50 winner was Carolyn Garvey of Sarasota.

David Beesley, President and CEO of First Step, was extremely pleased with the event, saying "It's great to see such a strong turnout. Like so many non-profits, First Step has been hit hard by funding cuts; funds raised through events like this backfill some of those losses and allow us to help people in need of assistance."

David Kramer, business development with Halfacre Construction Company, the tournament's "Eagle" sponsor, says "I served on First Step's event committee because Halfacre believes strongly in helping our community through non-profit involvement. We are pleased to be able to support First Step again this year as a sponsor; the services they provide are so vital to our community, especially during these challenging times."

Last year, First Step served nearly 14,000 adults and youths in its recovery and prevention programs. The agency offers detoxification, residential and outpatient programs. For information regarding First Step, visit [www.fsos.org](http://www.fsos.org) or call Kelly French at (941) 552-2065.

*Two Photos Attached: (1) Golf Balls Dropped From Helicopter;  
(2) David Kramer, Event Committee Member and Evan Guido, Event Committee Chairman*

**To arrange an interview with First Step of Sarasota, contact Grapevine Communications at 941-351-0024 or email [tlewis@grapeinc.com](mailto:tlewis@grapeinc.com). Grapevine Communications is an award-winning advertising, marketing, and public relations firm based in Sarasota and serving clients nationwide.**

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