



**Central Florida Physician Raises Funds for Family Building**  
*More than 9.3 million American women seek treatment for fertility issues*

Winter Park, FL (October 27, 2008) --- More than \$70,000 was raised and 150 guests attended the Annual *Embracing Hope Gala* held Saturday, October 25 at the elegant Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Florida. Proceeds benefit programs and services for those facing fertility and family building challenges, including the *Embracing Hope Grant* and the *Path to Parenthood Conferences*.

Luminaries in attendance were Special Guest, Trista Sutter, ABC's original "Bachelorette", Gigi Fernandez, two-time Olympic tennis champion, Jane Geddes, Women's US Open champion, and Lauren LaPonzina, Anchor at FOX 35 Orlando. Entertainment was provided by nationally headlined Michael Andrew and Swingerhead.

Kim Hahn, Founder and CEO of Conceive Magazine, was presented the First Annual "A Lifetime of Embracing Hope Award" for her tireless efforts to educate and open the discussion of fertility and family building. Kim created the first magazine created to empower others on their journey to parenthood.

"Thank you for the wonderful outcome of the Gala. Your tireless efforts enabled more patients to achieve their dream of building a family. I am honored and privileged to be associated with you all," said Mark P. Trollice, Founder of Fertile Dreams, to the many that helped make the evening a success.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, more than 9.3 million American women seek treatment for fertility issues annually in their dream to have a family. In 2003, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention reported that over 48,000 babies were born as a result of 122,872 assisted reproductive technology procedures performed. Research has shown that in most infertility cases, 40 percent of the complications are female, 40 percent are male and 20 percent are undetermined.

Sponsors for the 2008 event include Michael Andrew, Melissa B. Brisman, Esq., California Cryobank, *Central Florida Doctor Magazine*, Clear Channel-Orlando, Eileen Coe, Esq. and George Coe, Esq., *Conceive Magazine*, Dr. Jernigan - CEO, Adventist Health System, Fertility & Reproductive Medicine Center for Women, Fertility C.A.R.E., Fields BMW, Hot Moms Club, Kings Pharmacy, Mazzotti Portraits, *MD News Magazine*, *Moms Like Me Magazine*, Nth Degree Design & Visual fx, OV-Watch, Playground Magazine, Posh Parenting, Purple Cow Productions, Reproductive Medicine Institute, Dr. & Mrs. Mark P. Trollice, WDBO-AM 580 (Cox Radio), Wayne Densch Foundation, West Wing Limousine, Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies, Winter Park Memorial Hospital, and Xytex.

*The Embracing Hope Grant* program awards \$10,000 grants to deserving couples who do not have the insurance nor financial resources to afford the costly in-vitro fertilization treatment they require to achieve pregnancy. For many, the Embracing Hope Grant represents their only chance to attempt to conceive their biological child. In 2009, we will establish the Embracing Hope Grant for Adoption.

*The Paths to Parenthood Conference* was created four years ago and is the only one of its kind the country. Drawing nationally known speakers and exhibitors, this annual event provides hundreds of conference attendees with vital and timely information on infertility causes, treatment options, adoption, support groups, and much more.

Fertile Dreams, Inc. – a nonprofit 501c3 organization – was created by a Central Florida physician and his wife, who personally experienced their own fertility issues. The mission of Fertile Dreams is to empower those touched by fertility issues through prevention, education, advocacy and research. To learn more, visit <http://www.fertiledreams.org>



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Fertile Dreams, is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization (TAX ID #202593865).