

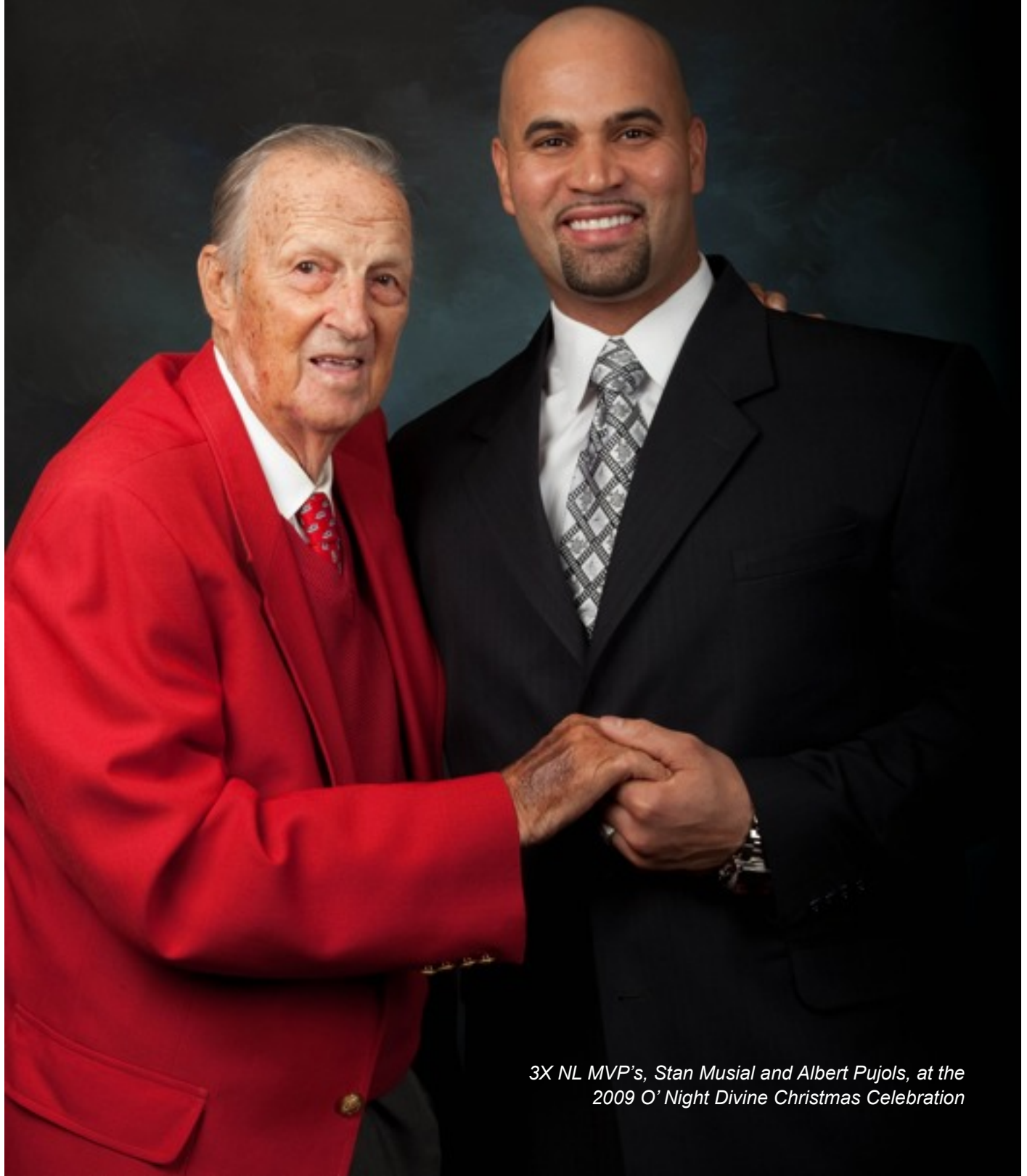
Pujols News

WINTER 2009

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PUJOLS FAMILY FOUNDATION

ISSUE THREE

Special 2009 Christmas Issue!



3X NL MVP's, Stan Musial and Albert Pujols, at the 2009 O' Night Divine Christmas Celebration



O'Night Divine

Fifth Annual Event Draws Nearly 600 Guests

12.05.09

by Anna M. Jones

Karen Cunningham's only goal was to grab her Kleenex and

speech and get off the stage as quickly as she could at the Pujols Family Foundation's annual O Night Divine dinner. Then she realized Al "the Mad Hungarian" Hrabosky was standing, and it hit her.

"When I saw him stand up, I was blown away," she said.



Karen Cunningham

"For him of all people, then I realized everyone was standing up."

And applauding.

Amid a sea of professional athletes and celebrities, a mom from South County had stolen the show when she talked of raising her daughter with Down syndrome in front of almost 600 people.

The fifth annual dinner, held Dec. 5 at the Chase Park Plaza, had all the staples of a fabulous evening: great food, spirited auctions, wonderful music and photos of the PFF's work in 2009, not to mention 2009 National League MVP Albert



Michael O'Brien Sings O'Holy Night



The Mayfield Family



Darryl and McGraw



Deidre with Bernard Okeke



Rick Horton



Roberto Clemente Jr.

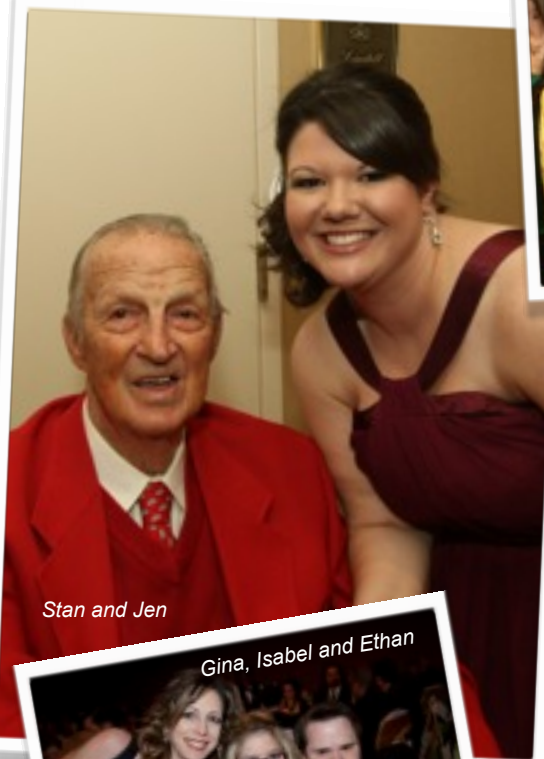




Orlando Cepeda, Albert Pujols and Bruce Sutter



Jackie Brock with Neal E. Boyd



Stan and Jen



Gina, Isabel and Ethan

Pujols and his wife, Deidre.

But the foundation, which dedicates itself to those with Down syndrome and the impoverished in the Dominican Republic, wanted to go beyond just photos to help the record number of attendees better understand how Down syndrome affects families.

So Karen, who has been active in the PFF since its inception in 2005 and whose daughter Miki, 17, has Down syndrome, seemed a perfect choice to speak. Only she didn't exactly jump on the opportunity. "I can do a lot of things, anything you ask, except talk about Miki, with her I get so emotional," said Karen. "I honestly said I couldn't do it."

After some arm twisting from PFF executive director Todd Perry, she conceded and "had three weeks of pure fright."

Watching dentist Mark Fernandez shake a bit before his speech didn't help, she

said. But then she took to the stage and spoke of how an extra chromosome causes her daughter to look and act differently, that raising a child with special needs is not a road parents would chose. But she also explained in between a tear or two how Miki is everything you'd want in a best friend, that God's greatest blessings come wrapped in

tough packages. And she talked of what the foundation has meant to the kids.

"Now I'm very glad I did the speech," said a relieved Karen, who was swarmed by friends and strangers alike after the dinner while Miki quietly took in all the hoopla.

In addition to touching on the 100-plus programs the



Homer and Rich



Orson and Sandra



Roberto Clemente Jr., Darryl Strawberry, Lou Brock, John Mabry, Albert and Mike Matheny



Kyle McClellan



Meadowlark Lemon





Rene Knott

foundation has sponsored for children with Down syndrome over the years, the night also featured stories and pictures of the PFF's efforts in the Dominican Republic, including a trip last winter to place beds in homes where families had been sleeping in deplorable conditions as well as provide medical care.

Other efforts in the DR include Batey Baseball, which teaches leadership and accountability through baseball, a clean water program and Operation Wonder Woman, which has helped women learn practical skills to start businesses of their own.



2009 Partner of the Year
Bernard Okeke



Greg Holder





Tony LaRussa and Albert

Much of the work in the Dominican was coordinated through Compassion International, a Christian ministry that helps those in poverty around the world.

And Bernard Okeke of Compassion International, who had been flown in from the Dominican for the dinner, was caught completely off-guard yet spoke very eloquently when he was named the PFF's Partner of the Year.

Celebrities

It was hard to miss the many celebrities in attendance, including former Cardinals such as Hrabosky, Jack Clark, Jason Isringhausen, John Mabry, Mike Matheny and Bruce Sutter.

Others included Darryl Strawberry, Orlando Cepeda, Roberto Clemente Jr., Mark Buehrle, Harlem Globetrotter Meadowlark Lemon and poker champion Dennis Phillips.

Even Stan Musial visited before the dinner.

But the biggest surprise appearance might have been that of Cardinals manager Tony La Russa, who was able to stop by on his way to the winter meetings.

Not only did he come but he provided the first live auction item - "Manage the Cardinals for a Day in Spring Training."

The offer included a chance to spend the day in the clubhouse, make the Cardinals lineup and



Todd Perry



Tony and Rene



Dr. Mark Fernandez

Albert and Deidre

sit in on sessions with pitching coach Dave Duncan, hitting coach Mark McGwire and other staff members.

In addition, he offered to match the bid price.

When it was all said and done, fellow major leaguer and St. Louis native Mark Buehrle won with a bid of \$10,000. Buehrle, who will have his own spring training to attend, then surprised

everyone by donating the day to Karen and Miki.

NewsChannel 5 sports anchor and auction staple Rene Knott continued to keep the live auction rolling with five other items including an Albert Pujols autographed and framed jersey, a diamond-shaped case with 10 autographed baseballs that comprised a "Field of Dreams" with autographs including Albert Pujols, Cal Ripken Jr., Bob Gibson, Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio and Stan Musial, dinner for 10 cooked by Deidre Pujols, an MVP Reactor Watch and one-year lease on a 2008 BMW 335 convertible.

As for the silent auction, more than 100 items were available.



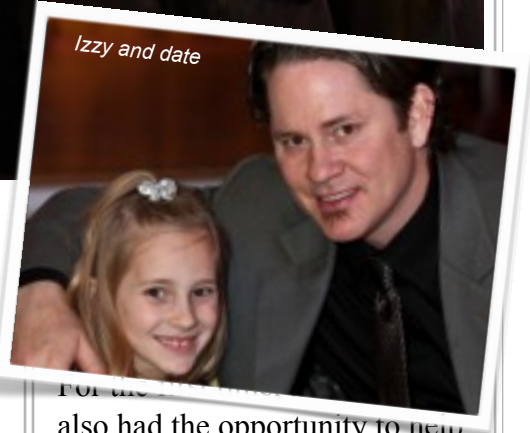
Orlando and Bruce



Karen and Miki Cunningham, with Mark and Jamie Buehrle



Albert and Jack Clark



Izzy and date



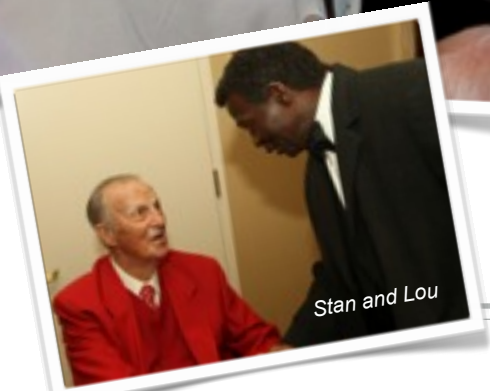
David Price

Among those that drew the most attention:

- A framed and autographed photo of Albert and Stan Musial's cover to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's 2009 All-Star Game section.
- A framed photo by Scott Rovak that shows Albert actually crushing the ball when it makes contact with his bat.
- A football signed by Archie, Peyton and Eli Manning.
- Guitars, one autographed by the Jonas Brothers, another by B.B. King.

FOR THE... also had the opportunity to help the foundation with a Christmas wish list through donations ranging from \$25-\$175 to help a child with DS attend PFF events to donations from \$250-\$456 to help children in the Dominican Republic.

In all, at least \$240,000 was raised for the evening. It was an extremely successful evening that reminded people that giving to others is what it is all about.



Stan and Lou

Blues Game 2010

GFI invite Pujols Family Foundation families to the Blues Hockey Game

01/14/10

By Kate Swarbrick

The minute the Pujols Foundation families walked through the entryway of Scottrade Center, they immediately ran toward their friends at the PFF, offering hugs and details about their busy winter breaks. Soon enough, however, all talk turned to hockey. Nick McMullen revealed that he used to play goalie. David Kime demonstrated his great familiarity with the Blues, identifying the players by name, and Lauren Hennieke expressed how she is a huge sports fan who loves to watch the Blues games from home when she can't attend.

The Pujols Family Foundation was able to kick off 2010 at the Blues game because GFI Digital president Bruce Gibbs invited PFF families to sit in GFI's seats at the Blue's game.

Before the game had even started, the PFF families were on their feet cheering for the



Blues. Matt Smitherman cheered so loudly during warm-ups that he was given a puck by one of the players. Matt had a smile from ear to ear after receiving that special memento of his night with the Blues.

After a scoreless first period, the PFF families were treated to a snack and refreshments on the GFI bus. And as they left the bus the children were surprised with a great goodie bag filled with souvenirs, courtesy of the Blues.

During the third period the PFF families got another special treat when they were recognized on the big screen as GFI's guest for the evening. The kids got a kick out of seeing themselves on the big

video board in the arena. The third period also brought the goal that allowed the Blues to defeat the Minnesota Wild.

All of the PFF families had a great time, thanks to GFI and the Blues. By the time the game ended, the kids had smiles on their faces and sleep in their eyes. And they had memories that would last a lifetime, especially for Nick McMullen who got to see his beloved Blues win their second game in a row at home!



Event Calendar

In keeping with their commitment to Faith, Family and Others, the Pujols Family Foundation is teaming with the local community to host or co-host the following events.

Upcoming Events (all dates subject to change without notice):

Saturday, February 27th, 2010

Winter Wonderland

This family friendly event is sponsored by Golub and Company at Westport Plaza and is open to the public. It includes ice sculpture demonstrations, games, activities, food and entertainment. Most of the activities will be located inside. Special appearance by Fredbird. The cost is \$5 per person (children 2 and under get in free) with all of the proceeds benefitting the Pujols Family Foundation. The event will run from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Come out and support the Pujols Family Foundation.

Saturday, March 27th, 2010

Pujols Picture Party (Scrapbooking Event)

This event is ONLY for MOTHERS who have children with Down syndrome. It is open to all mothers, whether

you are a seasoned scrapbooker or if you have never scrapbooked before. There is no wrong way to scrapbook, so have fun! We will have beginner's classes running all day as well as different instructional stations including a class on digital scrapbooking and stamping. It is going to be a great way for mothers to connect with one another and learn a fun way to preserve your family's memories. The event will run from 10:00am to 3:00pm at Destiny Church in Des Peres, MO. For more information, please contact Jen Cooper at jen@pujolsfamilyfoundation.org or by calling (314) 878-2105.

Sunday, May 23rd, 2010

Mother Daughter Bowling Event

Girls with Down syndrome and their moms will be invited to a bowling party at the Brunswick Zone Bowling Lanes in Creve Coeur, MO. This event is INVITATION ONLY and will be limited to girls and their moms only. For questions concerning this event, please contact us at: info@pujolsfamilyfoundation.org

Monday, June 14, 2010

Home Run Derby and Albert's All-Star Game

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to hit a home run like Albert Pujols? Here is your chance! Children and young adults with Down syndrome can come out and experience stepping into the batter's box and taking a home run swing, just like Albert. The Derby starts at 2:30pm and runs until 6:00pm at the Miracle Field in Chesterfield, MO. This part of the event is by invitation only. After the Home Run Derby, everyone can come out to cheer on a special team comprised of teenagers and young adults with Down syndrome that will take on the Bulldogs to defend their All-Star title. The game will start at 6:30pm. Please come out and cheer on the team in what is sure to be a great and exciting game! Please contact Jen Cooper at (314)878-2105 with any questions.

June/July 2010

Batter Up! Cooking Classes

This summer will feature a wonderful opportunity for people with Down syndrome and a parent to spend some quality time learning to cook in a fun, hands-on setting. The

Dierberg's Cooking School will be hosting the classes that will take place from June 21st through the end of July for girls and boys 13 and older. Each child and parent pair will be able to sign up for one of the available classes that will be held at different times, days and locations. The classes will last two hours and will end with enjoying the food that you have prepared. To schedule your class please contact Jen Cooper at (314) 878-2105.

Daytime Classes (West Oaks location in Creve Coeur)

10:00am - 12:00pm

Monday, June 21st

Thursday, July 1st

Friday July 9th

Tuesday, July 13th

Monday, July 19th

Wednesday, July 28th

Evening Classes (Clarkson/Clayton, Ellisville)

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Thursday, June 24th

Wednesday, June 30th

Wednesday, July 7th

Thursday, July 15th

Wednesday, July 21st

Monday, July 26th

Sunday, August 2, 2010

Hitters & Splitters, Father/Son Bowling Event

We know he can hit the long ball...but can he bowl? Boys with Down syndrome and their dads will be invited to a bowling party with Albert Pujols at the Brunswick Zone Bowling Lanes in Creve Coeur, MO. This event is INVITATION ONLY and will be limited to boys and their dads only. This event will also include a silent auction. For questions concerning this event, please contact us at: info@pujolsfamilyfoundation.org

October 15, 2010

Autumn Prom

Get dressed up and boogie! After such a successful event last year we had to do this again! This event will be invitation only to people with Down syndrome, ages 16 and older. For questions concerning this event, please contact us at: info@pujolsfamilyfoundation.org

December 4, 2010

6th O' Night Divine Christmas Celebration

We invite you to join St. Louis Cardinals All-Star First Baseman Albert Pujols and his wife, Deidre, for O Night Divine, a Christmas event benefiting the Pujols Family Foundation. The event is set for Saturday, December 4, 2010 at the Chase Park Plaza in St. Louis, MO. Tickets for this event will go on sale in October 2010. Tickets are very limited and will sell out! Sponsorship packages are also available.



Third Quarter Sponsors

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for their contributions and for making our Third quarter of 2009 a wonderful success!

O' Night Divine Christmas Celebration

MVP Sponsor:

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Silver Slugger Sponsor:

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Mission Statement:

To live and share our commitment to faith, family and others.

To promote awareness, provide hope and meet tangible needs for families and children who live with Down syndrome. To provide extraordinary experiences for children with disabilities and life threatening illnesses. To improve the standard of living and quality of life for impoverished children and orphans in the Dominican Republic through education and tangible goods.

Silver Slugger Sponsor (Cont.):

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Environmental Consultants
St. Louis Cardinals
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Homer Sedighi, DMD
Richard Snitzer DMD

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Pujols 5

Pujols Family Foundation

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Deidre Pujols — **President**

Danny Lozano — **Advisory Board**

Jeanette Bax-Kurtz — **Advisory Board**

Norv Beffa — **Advisory Board**

Todd Perry — **Executive Director/CEO**

Jennifer Cooper — **Program Manager**

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The Pujols Family Foundation is a
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From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

We have received dozens of e-mails and phone calls asking about our plans for Haitian humanitarian relief. As I continue to watch the devastation of that country and it's people my first reaction is to catch the next flight down there are find a way to serve... then I remember that we are not a rapid response agency. I am not equipped, at all, to provide any meaningful service. Put simply, I would only be in the way.

As of right now, we are asking people not send us any donations

for Haitian relief efforts. We are strongly suggesting that people pray for the victims and the service providers on the ground. And I would also suggest making donations to The American Red Cross or Compassion International if you are looking for ways to contribute.

These families in Haiti need help today! These organizations will get the funds to the people much faster than we ever could.

Blessings,

Todd