

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Local Teens Create "BRIGHTER DAYS FOR DARFUR"**

PALM BEACH, Fla., November 15, 2007 - Lilly Pulitzer and For Darfur Inc. raised an estimated \$100,000 at the "Brighter Days for Darfur" benefit on Thursday, November 15, 2007. The sold out crowd mixed and mingled for three hours under a perfect sky at the Brazilian Court in Palm Beach, Florida.

**Gabriel Schillinger, George Merck, Kayle Gishen, Clea Stone, Matthew Teper, Jimmy Sunshine, Grant Dubler, and Dianna Cohen** Chaired the event. The team along with other high school students formed For Darfur, Inc., a non-profit with the goal of raising awareness and funds for children and elderly who are suffering in Darfur.

One highlight of the evening was the Silent Auction, and the celebrities who had donated their personal items to it. All in all there were some 60+ items to be won, including autographed guitars from **Little Steven** (Steven Van Zandt from Bruce Springsteen's band, and "The Soprano's"), another signed guitar from **Joan Jett**, memorabilia from Dolphin's Hall of Fame QB **Dan Marino**, as well as items from **Jimmy Buffett** and of course **Lilly Pulitzer**.

The Courtyard was full of the bright colors of Lilly Pulitzer's festive prints, along with a healthy dose of the areas movers and shakers. **Mohamed Hassan-Obied** came in from Toronto, where he has been editing his film "**Darfur: The Truth ~ From Despair to Hope**". The documentary is slated to come out next year. Hassan-Obied is from Darfur, and has interviewed Tony Blair, Colin Powell and Angelina Jolie. Throughout the night a live band kept the cool vibe happening, courtesy of the very talented **Robert Goodman Band**, and a DJ mixed in authentic African music along with a dose of Funk and World Beat.

Funds raised at the Brighter Days for Darfur event will directly support relief efforts in Darfur through the non-profit organization **Doctors Without Borders**.

"We are so gratified that our first major benefit was a success with a sold out crowd and generous auction bidders," said **George Merck**, Co-founder of For Darfur. "This event allows us to help provide the much needed funds for medicine and food where it can do the most good."

Brighter Days Event Host Committee Members include **Susan and Peter Brockway, Jane and Jimmy Buffet, Adele and George Merck, Melissa and Howard Parker, Lilly Rousseau, Mary Lou Schillinger and Dr. Brent Schillinger,** and **Christy and Mark Sunshine.** Giving up evenings, weekends and summer vacations, the For Darfur teens are working feverishly to raise awareness and funding for the grave suffering in the Darfur region of Sudan. The group has even attracted the involvement of **Jack Healey**, the former Executive Director of Amnesty International, who now sits on the For Darfur Advisory Board. Healey is respected internationally as one of the leaders in the fight for human rights across the globe. Recently his work has been focused on raising awareness in the current situation in Burma. In the 1986, it was Healey that energized Bono and U2 to get into the movement via Amnesty International's "Conspiracy of Hope Tour" and since then Bono has worked diligently in his efforts.

"It's exciting to be a part of a group of our peers who, regardless of age, are making a big difference in the world," said **Gabriel Schillinger** Co-founder of For Darfur. "For Darfur, Inc. was created to give us a way to make a difference. We are committed to help the people suffering in Darfur. Our events will continue to create awareness and raise funds." Brighter Days event sponsors include Lilly Pulitzer, First Capital, Florida Crystals and C. Orrico.

- For information on For Darfur Inc. visit the organization's web site [www.fordarfur.org](http://www.fordarfur.org).
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