

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Chiera Family Foundation
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Florida Panthers Foundation to Award South Florida Non-Profit \$25,000 during NHL Game

Local childhood cancer survivor, Megan Hamerdinger Casabe, to be interviewed



COCONUT CREEK, Fla. - The Florida Panthers Foundation will highlight their new, generous partnership with the Chiera Family Foundation at their home game on Wednesday, November 28th against the Anaheim Ducks. During an in game presentation, representatives from the Chiera Family Foundation and the children they support, will be presented with a \$25,000 check from The Florida Panthers Foundation through their Community Champions Grant Program.

For more than 25 years, the Chiera Family Foundation has been helping kids battling this horrible disease. During that timeframe, they have helped send thousands of kids to a very special sleep away summer camp as well as help send over 60 young adults who have beaten cancer to college.

An interview with childhood cancer survivor, Megan Hamerdinger Casabe, will be aired in-game and will recognize the great work the Chiera Family Foundation organization is doing in our South Florida community.

Megan was diagnosed with leukemia in 1995 and went to the camp from 1997-2004. She returned to serve as a camp counselor, and as a Chiera scholarship recipient, she earned her undergraduate and master's degree in social work from FAU. Today, Megan's journey has come full circle where she is able to help kids and families dealing with the same disease she once faced.

The Chiera Family Foundation is a Coconut Creek based non-profit organization that began as a tribute to the patriarch of the family, Nicholas Chiera who passed away from

cancer. Today the foundation has turned into one of the largest fundraising efforts for many kids and young adults battling cancer across South Florida.

The three programs funded by their foundation are called N.I.C.K.'s CAMP, N.I.C.K.'s Scholarships, and N.I.C.K.'s Golf. The acronym N.I.C.K., stands for Nothing is Impossible for Cancer Kids and helps send over 150 kids to summer camp and five young adults to college. Their latest program, N.I.C.K.'s Golf takes children who are undergoing chemotherapy at Joe DiMaggio's children's hospital and gives them something to look forward to through a nine-week learn to golf program through the First Tee of Broward.

Club level and lower bowl level seats are also on sale for this game with a portion of the proceeds going towards their foundation. To purchase those tickets and for more on the Chiera Family Foundation, visit ChieraFamilyFoundation.org.

Community Champions/Grant Recipients

The Community Champions Grant Program allows charitable organizations throughout South Florida to request financial support for their programs and initiatives. Through this grant program, Panthers ownership has committed \$5 million over 5 years to the local community. At each of the 41 home games throughout the season, the Foundation will recognize and award one grant for up to \$25,000 to a local organization. To learn more or apply for a grant, please visit FloridaPanthers.com/GrantApplication.