

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Lauer Golf Tournament to Benefit Hospice of Palm Beach County Enters Ninth Year**

**PALM BEACH, FL—(December 16, 2006)**—Record rain didn't stop golfers from teeing it up at the Ninth Annual Jay Robert Lauer Golf Tournament to benefit Hospice of Palm Beach County. Thursday's torrential downpour soaked area golf courses, but it did not dampen the spirit of the event named in honor of the late father of NBC *Today* co-anchor, Matt Lauer. Because of damage and flooding at The Breakers Palm Beach Ocean course, two separate tournaments were held. More than 60 golfers played Friday at the Atlantis Country Club in Atlantis as grounds crews worked diligently to repair the course at The Breakers. On Saturday, more than 120 golfers joined Matt Lauer on the links at The Breakers. The two-day golf event closed with the Ermenegildo Zegna Evening on Saturday night. Almost 400 people including Matt and Annette Lauer, Hospice of Palm Beach County President and CEO Dave Fielding and his wife Jennifer, Hospice of Palm Beach County Chairman of the Board Michael Connors and his wife Claudette, Ray and Maria Floyd, and Djordje Stefanovic of Ermenegildo Zegna attended the cocktail party, dinner, and silent auction held in The Breakers' Venetian and Mediterranean ballrooms.

Matt Lauer is Honorary Chairman of the Ninth Annual Jay Robert Lauer Golf Tournament. Vicki Rautbord is the event's Chairperson. Lauer became Hospice of Palm Beach County's Ambassador-at-Large after the organization cared for his father, Jay Robert Lauer, a decade ago. "We were so impressed by the care Hospice of Palm Beach County gave my father who they didn't know. The staff became like family and allowed him to live the end of his life with enormous dignity and grace," said Lauer. "In appreciation for their care, our

family agreed to support Hospice of Palm Beach County through the annual Jay Robert Lauer Golf Tournament.”

Media sponsors of the Ninth Annual Jay Robert Lauer Golf Tournament include ESPN Radio, NBC Universal, The Palm Beach Post, Palm Beach Daily News, and WPTV NewsChannel 5. Gold Sponsors were Dignity Memorial, Ermenegildo Zegna, The Law Office of Patricia E. Thorne, Patricia G. Thorne, The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club & Spa, Jupiter.

Proceeds from the Jay Robert Lauer Golf Tournament and the Ermenegildo Zegna Evening benefit Hospice of Palm Beach County’s patient care and outreach programs.

**About Hospice of Palm Beach County:** *Hospice of Palm Beach County offers a wide range of services and educational programs designed to meet the special needs of patients and families faced with advanced illness. Expert physical, emotional and spiritual care is provided wherever the patient is - the home, skilled nursing or assisted living facility, hospital or hospice inpatient unit, including the C.W. Gerstenberg Hospice Center in West Palm Beach, the Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Pinecrest Delray, the Bethesda Memorial Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, the Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Good Samaritan Medical Center, the Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and the Jay Robert Lauer Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at JFK Medical Center. The organization also offers full bereavement support to Hospice families and anyone in the community in need. Hospice of Palm Beach County’s focus is on quality of life. The organization is sensitive to and respectful of religious, cultural and personal beliefs. Contact Hospice of Palm Beach County toll free at 888-848-5200 or visit the website [www.hpbc.com](http://www.hpbc.com) for information.*

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