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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHALLENGE UNLIMITED AT IRONSTONE FARM CELEBRATES ITS
9TH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF GIVING GALA
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH
AND IS PROUD TO HONOR
GINA JOHNSON, PETER RAFFALLI, M.D., & JACK WILLIAMS
AT
THE GREATEST FUNDRAISER ON EARTH!**

On **November 19th**, over 450 guests will gather at the **Andover Country Club** for a **Circus celebration and fundraiser for Challenge Unlimited at Ironstone Farm**. At this 9th annual gala, Ironstone Farm will honor three unique and inspiring individuals.

Ms. Gina Johnson has spent the last four years sharing her talents as an artist by creating portraits of service men and women who have lost their lives while serving in the armed forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. Ironstone Farm is honored to celebrate Ms. Johnson and her volunteerism which brings comfort to grieving family members through her art and her spirit of giving.

Peter Raffalli, MD FAAP is a pediatric neurologist for Children's Hospital Boston who in his spare time, can be found dressed as a clown visiting children who are struggling through cancer treatments, dealing with an HIV diagnosis or recovering from burns. He has also led the Starlight Starbright Clown troupe, a group of clowns dedicated to brightening the lives of seriously ill children. Whether clown or awarded physician, Dr. Raffalli's objective remains the same: to use his passion and compassion for children who are ill and coax a smile at times when none would appear.

Jack Williams launched Wednesday's Child in 1981. Since then, over 800 special needs children in need of adoption have been highlighted in weekly segments on WBZ-TV Channel 4. Mr. Williams' personal engagement with each of the children he showcases makes each child's story all the more poignant and personal as their hope to find a home is brought into the living rooms of thousands of local families each night.

The awards given will highlight the generosity of these three humanitarians who have shared so much of their time, so personally to help so many in our community.

Previous honorees include **John Henry, Doug and Laurie Flutie, Drew and Joann Weber, Charlie & Maura Weis, Rudy Baez, Ed Stevens and George and Margo Behrakis.**

Known for its daring thematic events, the 2011 Spirit of Giving Gala will again surprise and delight transforming the Andover Country Club into the midway of an old time circus billed as **The Greatest Fundraiser on Earth.** New to this year's event will be the **chance to win nearly 100 prizes.** Andover Country Club Chef Elaine Chirichiello will create a decadent culinary spread and there will be live music and dancing throughout the night.

The Spirit of Giving Gala is projected to bring in \$230,000 in revenue for the therapeutic riding center in Andover which provides physical, occupational and speech language therapies to individuals with disabilities for 25 years. The programs have recently expanded to include therapies in mental health and integrative therapies for cancer patients and cancer survivors through partnerships with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Tickets are \$125 and sponsorships range from \$500 to \$20,000.

For more information, please contact Megan Loughney at Ironstone Farm at 978-475-4056 or at meganloughney@challengeunlimited.org.

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