

February 18, 2008

FIGURE SKATING OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST DOROTHY HAMILL WINS BATTLE OVER DEPRESSION, WILL SHARE STORY AT FUNDRAISER



Naples, FL - The David Lawrence Foundation is honored to announce that on May 2, 2008, Olympic Gold Medalist **Dorothy Hamill** will be in Naples to share her personal struggle with mental illness as the keynote speaker at the David Lawrence Foundation's fundraising luncheon entitled, **Skating on Thin Ice: Overcoming Depression**. She will open up about the secrets of her private life, from her difficulties with her alcoholic father and her emotionally distant mother to her husband's fatal plane crash and her own struggles with depression and bankruptcy. Hamill joins forces with organizations around the country like the David Lawrence Foundation serving as a motivational speaker. She shares in the Foundation's mission to bring awareness to the number one mental illness that affects millions of Americans each year. The money raised from the event will support the mental health and substance abuse treatment programs available at the David Lawrence Center.

Co-chairs for the event are Polly Keller, Vickie Nolen, Elizabeth Star and Robin Stranahan. Tickets for the luncheon are \$300 per person and \$1,000 per VIP guest. Hamill will join VIP guests and sponsors for an exclusive cocktail party held at a private residence on the evening of May 1, 2008. A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available including the speaker sponsor which includes the opportunity to sit with Hamill at the luncheon. For more information about the event, please contact the David Lawrence Foundation at 239-354-1416.

More About Dorothy Hamill

Dorothy Hamill, at the young age of nineteen, won the Gold Medal in figure skating at the 1976 Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria. Her interpretation of music, fluid skating and infectious charm led all nine judges to unanimously vote her the winner. Soon after, she won the World Championship title in Gothenburg, Sweden.

As a professional, Dorothy has skated with many productions, including eight years with the company she helped bring to preeminence among touring ice shows, the Ice Capades. She had an unprecedented four ABC television prime time specials produced in her honor. Along with winning five consecutive World Professional titles, Dorothy has produced and starred in her own touring productions of "Cinderella – Frozen In Time", "Hansel, Gretel, the Witch and the

Cat”, and “Nutcracker On Ice” and won an Emmy for her starring role in “Romeo and Juliet.” She was inducted into the Olympic Hall of Fame and the Figure Skating Hall of Fame and was very proud to run the torch into the Olympic Stadium in Salt Lake City as well as skate in the closing ceremonies with vocalist Harry Connick, Jr. In addition to her skating performing roles, Dorothy was the first recipient of the Stars of Madison Avenue Award for her continued roles in successful advertising campaigns. Dorothy was a judge on Skating with Celebrities on FOX TV, which aired during primetime beginning Winter 2006. She continues to tour with Champions on Ice and Broadway on Ice throughout the country.

Dorothy’s charity work includes the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the International Special Olympics, Big Brothers & Sisters of America, Buoniconti Fund, Olympic Aid, Vaccine Fund, American Cancer Society, the Aids Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, and teaching blind children to skate through the March of Dimes.

David Lawrence Foundation raises funds to support the programs and services of the David Lawrence Center, a not-for-profit, community mental health center that provides affordable mental health and substance abuse services in Southwest Florida. In addition to helping children with behavioral, emotional and substance abuse challenges, the Center provides counseling and rehabilitative services to adults in crisis and individuals with persistent mental illness. David Lawrence Center has nine locations in Collier County and touches the lives of nearly 16,000 clients a year. It is David Lawrence Center’s mission to restore and rebuild the lives of all of those in need. More information about David Lawrence Center can be found online at davidlawrencecenter.org.

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