

# Pujols News

FALL 2009

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PUJOLS FAMILY FOUNDATION

ISSUE TWO



## 2009 Celebrity Golf Classic

### Star-studded event raises funds for Pujols Family Foundation

8.31.09

By Matthew Leach / [MLB.com](http://MLB.com)

ST. LOUIS -- On a lovely, surprisingly mild late-summer day, nearly every Cardinals

player gave up his off-day to trek out approximately 40 miles from downtown St. Louis. Of course, there was golf awaiting them when they got there, but even so, it was telling.

The annual Albert Pujols Celebrity Golf Classic took



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**The Third Annual Prom**

**Coming Events**

place on Monday at the Country Club at St. Alban's, west of St. Louis. And it was hard to find a Cardinals player who didn't show up -- from fellow sluggers like Ryan Ludwick and Rick Ankiel to starting pitchers like Kyle Lohse and Chris Carpenter, to relievers Ryan Franklin and Brad Thompson to the double-play combination of Brendan Ryan and Skip Schumaker.

They could have been anywhere on their off-day, and they came out to participate in the fundraiser for the Pujols Family Foundation.

And it wasn't just players. General manager John Mozeliak and manager Tony La Russa showed up, not to mention stars such as Amaury Nolasco from television's "Prison Break." In total, more than 300 people participated -- an estimated 63 groups, each consisting of four players plus a celebrity.

"It means a lot," Pujols said before the foursomes hit the course. "It's a gorgeous day



"It's about the lives that we can change through our foundation. At the end of the day, that's where we keep our focus."

today to play golf, but also knowing what we're here for -- it's a charity event to raise money for my foundation. I definitely want to thank my teammates -- we don't have too many days off during the year -- for







showing up here and supporting the foundation. And to all the celebrities from all around the country for showing up and supporting my foundation. Hopefully, we can get a good turnout. Hopefully, it doesn't rain and we have a great day."

The weather held, and the relatively low temperatures made for a perfect day to be outside. The golf tournament is the biggest annual fundraiser for the Pujols Family Foundation, which is dedicated to helping people in St. Louis and Pujols' native Dominican Republic -- especially people







with Down syndrome. Last year's tournament raised roughly \$400,000.

"This is to give back to the community and back to the Dominican Republic," Pujols said. "To me, that's what it's all about -- to give back to them. It's not about us. ... It's about the lives that we can change through our foundation. At the end of the day, that's where we keep our focus."

Following the golf, the participants attended a reception and charity auction, all geared toward raising money for the foundation. Upcoming events for the foundation include the Autumn Prom, a dance for people who have Down syndrome, and the annual "O Night Divine" Christmas fundraiser.

*Matthew Leach is a reporter for MLB.com. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.*



"It's not about us."





# It's Party Time!

## 2009 Autumn Prom Draws Record Numbers

10.23.09

by Anna M. Jones

Making the trek to Clayton from Smithton, Il., Mike was definitely worried that he and his date, Kristen, would be late for the big night, the third annual Pujols Family Foundation Autumn Prom.

So when his mom, Donna Biffar, pulled into the Crowne Plaza on the evening of October 23, Mike, 22, bolted out of the back seat, ran around the back of the car and he and Kristen flew up the red carpet into the lobby, all but leaving mom and grandma in a cloud of dust.

But as soon as Donna heard the cheering through greet Mike and Kristen, she knew all was well.

"He was so worried he'd miss that part," said Donna of the red-carpet greeting that welcomes all the prom-goers.





“That and the food are his favorite. He’s been so excited.

“He says, ‘We eat, we shake our bootie, we kiss.’ It’s a very romantic evening for him. ... Those two are inseparable. They’ll be coming to this event forever.”

Approximately 350 youths and adults with Down syndrome and their dates attended the prom, making it the biggest turnout yet at the event.

Attendees ranged from 16 years well into adulthood, and attire even included tuxedos for some of the guys and formal gowns and heels for some of the gals.





And some even arrived via limousine.

"It's fun, I like dancing," said a giggling Kaitlyn Trower, 16, who was excited to be old enough to attend the now much-anticipated event. She came with her date and classmate, Chris Burkhart, 16, and added that, "We both like the slow dances."

"We eat, we shake our bootie, we kiss."

Needless to say, the ballroom was stunning. But perhaps even more impressive was all the food. Three of four walls were lined with every imaginable item possible. From Papa John's pizza to a burger bar to pastas, a gluten free table, desserts, plus Maui Wowi smoothies, Fitz's root beer, Cold Stone Creamery and more!

By 7:30 p.m. every table, including some located just outside the ballroom, was full with couples laughing and eating and waving their arms to Smashband's tunes.



By 7:50 p.m., all eyes were on stage. Albert Pujols, who had just undergone elbow surgery two days earlier, took to the stage and was joined by Deidre, who is pregnant with the Pujols' fourth child.

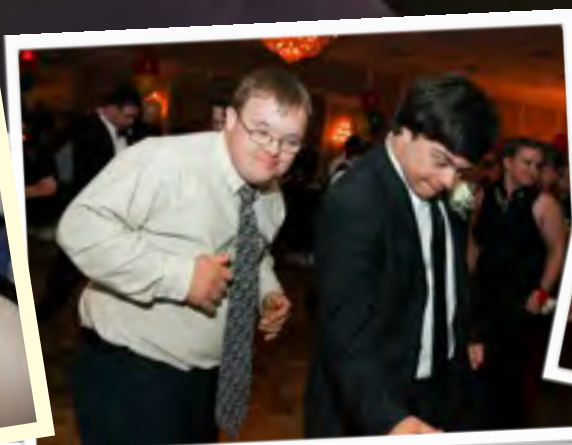
Albert even laughed about perhaps having a fifth child someday, to match his jersey number, and then Deidre

kicked off the rest of the evening by asking everyone, "Are you ready to rock the house tonight!"

And with that, the dance floor was packed for the better part of the next two-plus hours, with prom-goers dancing to everything from Funkytown to Michael Jackson's Thriller to a Miley Cyrus tune or two.

Even Theresa Mingo, 78, who attended with her son, James Patrick, 51, was dancing her heart out.

"I just enjoy seeing the young adults having so much fun," said Theresa, a former professional dancer. "Everyone here is so motivated. And there's so, so much love here."





And energy. With Mike of Mike's Balloon Creations making elaborate balloon hat characters, the dance floor was a wild array of bopping heads and sweaty kids.

"I like dancing and music," said Jimmy Simmons, 25, who danced for hours with date Jessica Berry, 24.

With all the energy in the room, it didn't take long for the attendees to climb up on the stage and join in with the Smashband members, who could not have been more accommodating. The band members even shared their microphones and instruments with the dozens who joined them.

"This is the most rocking dance we do all year! And that includes New Year's, which is rocking too," band leader Smash told the crowd.

A telling moment about the spirit of the evening came when the band took a brief break at 8:30. Even that didn't slow some of the prom-goers, and when St. Louis Cardinals mascot Fredbird made his debut a few minutes later, he was swarmed on the dance floor.

About 50 people were bantering and mugging and posing with Fredbird, when 8-year-old AJ Pujols weaved and wove his way through the crowd to catch Fredbird's attention.

Once AJ found his way up to the Cardinals mascot, he grabbed Fredbird and pulled him --and the crowd -- across the dance floor to a corner near the stage where a tuxedo-clad young man in a wheelchair was taking in the action.

The young man, Jessie, 21, was attending his first Autumn Prom and when he saw Fredbird, his face absolutely glowed. Fredbird spent the next few minutes high-fiving and playing with Jessie as the crowd laughed and clapped.

"This is so wonderful," said Jessie's mom, Cathy Mullins. "This is the happiest place on earth right now."

Just minutes later, the Smashband was back, the music thumping, and a Fredbird-led conga line the length of the room (and then some) was weaving its way out one ballroom door and back in through another.

It was truly an amazing night that everyone was able to share in. The Pujols Family Foundation Autumn Prom has become one of the most anticipated events of the year. And everyone cannot wait for next year.





## Event Calender

*In keeping with their commitment to Faith, Family and Others, the Pujols Family Foundation is teaming with the local community to host or co-host the following events.*

**Upcoming Events** (all dates subject to change without notice):

**December 5, 2009**

### **5th O' Night Divine Christmas Celebration**

We invite you to join St. Louis Cardinals All-Star First Baseman Albert Pujols and his wife, Deidre, for O Night Divine, a Christmas event benefiting the Pujols Family Foundation. The event is set for Saturday, December 5, 2009 at the Chase Park Plaza in St. Louis, MO. Tickets for this event will go on sale in October 2009. Tickets are very limited and will sell out! Sponsorship packages are also available.



### **High 5 Events:**

**November 2009:** Clothing Drive

**December 19, 2009:** Serving Lunch and Clothing Drive at St. Peter and St. Paul

*For more information about these and other High 5 events please contact Dianne Trower at (636) 394-1431*





# Second Quarter Sponsors

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for their contributions and for making our Second quarter of 2009 a wonderful success!

## 2009 Pujols Celebrity Golf Classic

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## 2009 Autumn Prom

Papa John's Pizza  
Lace Images  
Smash Band  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Cold Stone Creamery  
Maui Wowi  
McAlister's Deli  
Fitz's Bottling Company

## Mission Statement:

*To live and share our commitment to faith, family and others.*

To promote awareness, provide hope and meet tangible needs for families and children who live with Down syndrome. To provide extraordinary experiences for children with disabilities and life threatening illnesses. To improve the standard of living and quality of life for impoverished children and orphans in the Dominican Republic through education and tangible goods.

## Special Thank You:

Lace Images  
Deck the Walls  
Turn-Key Videoworks  
MPP&W  
Golub  
St. Louis Business Journal  
Pujols 5

## Pujols Family Foundation

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Jeanette Bax-Kurtz — **Advisory Board**

Norv Beffa — **Advisory Board**

Todd Perry — **Executive Director/CEO**

Jennifer Cooper — **Program Manager**

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The Pujols Family Foundation is a  
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## From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

The Autumn Prom has to be one of my favorite events of the year. There is so much energy and electricity in that room, I'm sure we could power downtown St. Louis for a month, if we could find a way to harness it.

This year's Prom was the biggest and best ever. As I surveyed the room, I could not help but feel a sense of great accomplishment. In a year where most non-profits are cutting back and scaling down, we have grown.

I take no credit, myself, for our success, but pass that on to where it belongs: to God and our wonderful supporters.

Thanks to you, we hosted over 400 people at our Prom this year and plan to move the venue in 2010 to support even more.

On behalf of anyone who has benefited from any of the 50+ events we sponsored this year: Thank you!

Blessings,  
Todd