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## TICKETS FOR COUNTRY MUSIC STAR DARIUS RUCKER CHARITY CONCERT GO ON SALE ON THURSDAY, DEC. 1

*Rucker to perform on Sunday, May 13 at ANNIKA and Friends Celebrity Golf Event at Sandestin*

**Destin, Fla. (Nov. 30, 2011)** – Tickets for the Darius Rucker charity concert will go on sale at 10 a.m. EST on Thursday, Dec. 1. The country music star will perform at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 13, 2012 as an exciting finale to the inaugural *ANNIKA & Friends at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort*. The concert will be held on the North Park lawn in Grand Boulevard at Sandestin. All tickets are general admission and can be purchased for \$59 (including taxes and fees) at [www.AnnikaandFriends.com](http://www.AnnikaandFriends.com).

Hosted by Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, the inaugural *ANNIKA & Friends* celebrity golf event will take place May 12-13, 2012. Hall of Fame golfer Annika Sorenstam, along with 25 of her celebrity friends and athletes, will join in an amazing weekend filled with golf, fine dining and music. All proceeds from the weekend will go to the ANNIKA Foundation to fund the implementation of SPARK – the leading physical education program for children in schools – in elementary schools in Northwest Florida and across the state.

Darius Rucker, lead singer of Hootie and the Blowfish, is now topping the country music charts as a solo artist. His 2008 release, *Learn To Live*, produced three consecutive No. 1 singles and Top 5 smash, "History In The Making." Rucker's success in the country music format was recognized at the 43rd Annual CMA Awards when he received the Top New Artist title and again with ACM, Teen Choice, and AMA Award nominations. Rucker is currently riding high with the release of his sophomore country album, *Charleston, SC 1966* which has produced two No. 1's "Come Back Song" and "This" as well as the current single, "I Got Nothin'." Rucker just announced that he will be joining Grammy award-winning trio Lady Antebellum on the second leg of the *Own The Night* 2012 World Tour, which will kick off in Tulsa, Okla. in late January and will run through June 2012.

The concert will be held in Grand Boulevard at Sandestin, the award-winning shop, dine, play and stay Town Center located on Northwest Florida's beaches. In addition to the Sunday night concert, the weekend's events will include a cocktail reception featuring ANNIKA wines and a dinner party with Annika, celebrities and sports personalities on Saturday, May 12. Annika will host a Mother's Day breakfast, golf clinic, celebrity golf tournament and VIP reception catered by Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar prior to the concert on Sunday.

VIP seating for the concert is only available with the purchase of a sponsorship package. Full information and weekly updates can be found at the event website, [www.AnnikaandFriends.com](http://www.AnnikaandFriends.com).

### **About the ANNIKA Foundation**

The ANNIKA Foundation teaches children the importance of living a healthy, active lifestyle through fitness and nutrition, and offers aspiring junior golfers opportunities to pursue their dreams. The Foundation has partnered with several key organizations to promote healthy and active lifestyles for children, including SPARK, the leading physical education program for schools; Florida Hospital for Children, supporting its *Healthy 100 Kids* initiative; and The First Tee, developing the *Nine Healthy Habits* curriculum for children. The Foundation annually conducts three major golf events for aspiring junior girls, including the ANNIKA Invitational at Reunion Resort in Orlando, Fla., the award-winning American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) event; the ANNIKA Invitational at Mission Hills in China for top Asian juniors; and the ANNIKA Cup, a team event for the top juniors in Sweden. The Foundation awards SPARK grants to schools, is a financial supporter of *Healthy 100 Kids*, and has endowed an ACE scholarship with the AJGA. Other key Foundation initiatives include ANNIKA

Junior Day, the ANNIKA Inspiration Award and scholarships for aspiring Swedish juniors. More information about the ANNIKA Foundation can be found at [www.annikafoundation.org](http://www.annikafoundation.org).

### **About Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort**

Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort is the #1 resort on Florida's Emerald Gulf Coast, and was rated among the top golf resorts in the country by leading golf magazines. It is nestled on 2,400 spectacular acres from the Beach to the Bay. The resort features 30 charming communities with 1,400 villas, town home and condominiums and the finest in Destin, Florida area accommodations. Sandestin is part of South Walton, which was named as one of the top destinations in the world to visit by *Frommer's Travel Guide*. Sandestin also features four championship golf courses, 15 world-class tennis courts, 19 swimming pools, a 98-slip marina, a fitness center and spa, The Village of Baytowne Wharf, a 29-acre village featuring boutique shops, casual and fine dining restaurants and nightlife. Visit [www.sandestin.com](http://www.sandestin.com) or call 1-866-91-BEACH for additional details.

### **About Grand Boulevard**

Grand Boulevard is the shop, dine, play and stay Town Center located on Northwest Florida's Beaches. Based on the prominent mixed-use architectural model, Grand Boulevard offers a dynamic lifestyle experience with convenient access to a multitude of exclusive shopping and dining options, entertainment, professional services, corporate offices and lodging. Grand Boulevard is a Howard Group and Merchants Retail Partners property. For more information, please call (850) 654-5929 or visit [www.grandboulevard.com](http://www.grandboulevard.com).

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