

# PRESS/NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**What:** First Things First 12<sup>th</sup> Fall Banquet Follow-up

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## **FTF CELEBRATES COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AT 2009 FALL BANQUET**

First Things First, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening marriages and families, celebrated their 12<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Banquet on September 24 with an evening of music and inspiration. The theme for this year's event was "Tour de Romance", which offered a refreshing concert experience with singer/songwriter Michael O'Brien.

The evening also recognized companies and individuals for their support of First Things First. Chattem, Inc. received the Spirit of the Family Impact Award and Personal Fitness Specialists/SportsBarn was given the Spirit of the Family Partnership Award. "First Things First is truly grateful to have such significant support in our community," said Julie Baumgardner, President and Executive Director. "While we have seen much progress since we began this journey 12 years ago, there is still more work to be done to continue providing the best resources available to our community for stronger marriages and families."

There were several highlights of the evening. Scottie Goodman served as emcee for the event. WJTT-Power 94 personality Donna L. spoke candidly about the impact of growing up without a father in her life. Her story was truly moving. Lamar and Wanda Threat shared how FTF classes enhanced their marriage. And let's not forget the amazing video, "[A Fresh Look at Marriage](#)", which depicted married life as told by children.

Special thanks go to our Chaircouple Richard and Mildred Bethea for a job well-done, and to Lynda Childress who served as our Corporate Sponsorship Chair. And a special thanks to our many sponsors who made the evening possible.

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