

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SFBTA Conference Provides Education, Networking for Fixed Income Community

BOCA RATON, FL, February 9, 2013 – The second annual South Florida Bond Traders Association (SFBTA) conference was held this weekend at the Boca Raton Resort and Club, bringing together fixed income professionals from throughout the country for three days of education and networking.

The SFBTA is a non-profit organization whose membership is comprised of investment and trading professionals from the South Florida area, representing over 30 firms involved in the buying, selling, and trading of fixed income securities.

In line with the Association's mission, this annual event is held to provide its members with product-specific discussions about current issues facing the securities trading industry, along with social activities to encourage attendees to develop and deepen their professional relationships. This year's conference also benefitted, in part, four local charities: The Chiera Family Foundation, which has raised over \$2.5 million to send thousands of children battling cancer to The American Cancer Society's *Reaching Out to Cancer Kids* summer camp (R.O.C.K.) and has given several young adults who have beaten cancer a chance to pursue their dreams by attending college through its scholarship program; the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy, and to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those impacted by suicide; The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, the world's largest, most comprehensive research center dedicated to finding more effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for paralysis resulting from spinal cord injury; and Kids in Distress (KID), whose mission is to prevent child abuse, preserve the family, and treat children who have been abused and neglected.

"The generosity of the South Florida Bond Traders is helping our foundation send children who are battling cancer to summer camp and to college. Their contributions have allowed children battling a horrible disease to forget about their treatments and enjoy one week of camp just like other kids. They have also helped young adults who have beaten cancer attend college," said Louis Chiera, Trustee/Board Member of the Chiera Family Foundation. "Our foundation and these children battling cancer are eternally grateful for what they have done and will continue to do."

The conference kicked off on Thursday afternoon with Special Guest Speaker Mr. Carl Tannenbaum, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at Northern Trust, followed by a cocktail reception in the exhibitor hall.

Friday began with opening remarks by SFBTA President George Barbar and a presentation by Aaron Kohli, a representative from the event's Premier Sponsor BNP Paribas. In addition, a young cancer survivor, who attended R.O.C.K. camp as a child and recently graduated from college as a result of through The Chiera Family Foundation scholarship program, shared her experience with the conference attendees. Following the opening remarks, attendees broke out into their chosen product-specific sessions for panel and roundtable discussions. There were four sessions to choose from, broken up into two time slots: First, the CD and Corporates/Preferreds panels, followed by the Agency/Mortgage and Structured Products panels. Experts in these fields spoke about industry-specific topics and also fielded questions from their audiences. At the conclusion of the second set of sessions, attendees came together for another cocktail reception in the exhibitor hall, and then reconvened with their individual product groups for separate dinners.

Many of the attendees met again Saturday morning for the outdoor activities of golf, tennis, and fishing. Attendees then had some break time before meeting again for a cocktail reception and dinner, during which recognition was given to the golf, tennis, and fishing tournament winners, and also to the event's Host Firms Amherst Securities Group, BNY Mellon, Incapital, JVB Financial Group, Mesirow Financial, and Multi-Bank Securities, as well as the other sponsors and exhibitors. Another highlight of the evening was a performance by magician Karl Koppertop.

"I am tremendously thankful that the local South Florida fixed income community has come together again this year to host our clients, create a dialogue about the current environment in our industry, and give back to the community," said Mr. Barbar. "And we plan to make next year's conference even better!"

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