

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

---

**For More Information Contact: Dianne Kaseta (770-432-0100, ext. 650)**

**Governor Sonny Perdue and First Lady Mary Perdue  
Awarded Prestigious 2003 World Children's Center  
Humanitarian Award  
and  
Aquafina Contributes \$1,000,000 To Build  
World Children's Center**

(Atlanta) – On Saturday, August 16, 2003 The Honorable Sonny Perdue and First Lady Mary Perdue were awarded the 2003 World Children's Center Humanitarian Award at the Center's Sixth Annual Gala. Advisory Board Member Bob Moore, Vice President of Publix Super Markets Atlanta Division, presented Governor Sonny and First Lady Mary Perdue with the prestigious award. Past award recipients include world-renowned artist Thomas Kinkade/The Thomas Kinkade Foundation and Publix Super Markets. Many special guests were in attendance including Jeff Foxworthy, Former Atlanta Falcons Quarterback Steve Bartkowski, Former Atlanta Braves Pitcher Jose Alvarez, DeKalb County District Attorney J. Tom Morgan, C. Thomas Davis author of "Fields of the Fatherless" and Howard "Bo" Callaway, Chairman of the Board Callaway Gardens.

**"We are honored to be here this evening. Mary and I accept this award with deep gratitude, appreciation and humility because we see your passion and commitment. We all have an appreciation and responsibility to love, care for and meet the needs of Georgia's children," said Governor Perdue.**

**Another highlight of the evening was Aquafina's presentation of a \$1,000,000 contribution to support the development of the World Children's Center.** The evening included a seated dinner for approximately 600 individuals and entertainment provided by largest selling comedy-recording artist in history, Jeff Foxworthy.

"The World Children's Center Advisory Board overwhelmingly selected the First Family as this year's award recipients," says Dianne Kaseta, World Children's Center Director of Partnership Development and Community Affairs. "Their commitment to Georgia's most vulnerable citizens stems from a history of commitment to children through their own experiences as foster parents. Additionally, from the Governor's first day in office, he and Mrs. Perdue have been working to help Georgia's forgotten children through important legislation."

Event sponsors included T-Mobile, Quaker Oats/Gatorade/Tropicana, The Coca-Cola Company, Aquafina, Kraft/Nabisco, Philips Arena, General Mills, Publix Super Markets, Procter & Gamble, and AirTran Airways, among others.

The World Children's Center is a planned community for homeless, abused, orphaned, and neglected children for whom parental rights have been permanently severed. The community will be built in Harris County, Pine Mountain Georgia on land purchased from Callaway Gardens Resort and Preserve. Children will first enter the Center between the ages of 2 and 8 and will live and grow at the Center through high school and beyond. In addition to a loving home, the World Children's Center will provide a myriad of services and programs that include accredited educational curriculum and facilities, the arts and humanities, a pediatric wellness clinic and food distribution center, an International Development Research Training Center, as well as sports and athletics, among others. These programs and services will play a role in enriching the lives of the children in many ways.