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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Celebrity Basketball Challenge Raises Over \$13,000 for Easter Seals Wisconsin**



Participants of the Celebrity Basketball Challenge join in a group photo with the honorary team captains – Jeffrey Carter, Stacy Opsal, Katherine Sterken, and Giovanni Giordan (*not pictured*)



*Pictured left to right:* Andy Crooks, Board Member, Easter Seals Wisconsin; Dr. Susie Dendinger, Affiliated Dentists; Dr. Mark Gustavson, Affiliated Dentists; Zach Morley, Board Member, Easter Seals Wisconsin; Dr. Maggie (Smith) Budde, Affiliated Dentists; and Dr. Brian Porter, Affiliated Dentists

Madison, WI – Easter Seals Wisconsin hosted its first Celebrity Basketball Challenge on April 7 at Madison College, raising over \$13,000 for the organization’s programs and services. The roster showcased former University of Wisconsin athletes and other local celebrities which included former UW 6’11” center and retired NBA player Greg Stiemsma; current UW assistant Howard Moore; Brian Butch, associate coach in the NBA G League (Wisc. Herd); 2000 Final Four participants Roy Boone and Dave Mader; and 2004 Big Ten conference champion and 2005 Sweet Sixteen participant Zach Morely. Former football players included quarterback John

Stocco, wide receiver Brandon Williams, linebacker Mike Taylor, tailbacks Brian Calhoun and John Clay; and linebacker/tight end Andy Crooks.

Just prior to the celebrity game, former UW men’s basketball assistant coach Gary Close held a Shot Doctor Skills Academy for students grades 3-6. Nearly 75 attended and worked one-on-one with former UW players to develop their basketball skills.

The event was presented by Affiliated Dentists. All proceeds raised went to the programs and services of Easter Seals Wisconsin – directly benefiting children and adults with disabilities throughout the state.

**Basketball** – Roy Boone (1999-2001), Brian Butch (2004-2008), Trent Jackson (1985-1989), Dave Mader (2000-2004), Aaron Moesch (2013-2017), Howard Moore (1990-1995), Zach Morley (2003-2005), Keaton Nankivil (2007-2011), Wquinton Smith (2007-2011), Greg Stiemsma (2004-2008) and Mike Wilkinson (2001-2005).

**Football** – Sam Arneson (2012-2014), Travis Beckum (2005-2008), Matt Bernstein (2001-2005), Brian Calhoun (2003-2005), John Clay (2008-2010), Andy Crooks (2004-2007), Bradie Ewing (2008-2011), Warren Herring (2011-2014), Kyle Jefferson (2007-2010), Matt Niesen (2000-2001), Jake

Pedersen (2010-2013), Matt Schabert (2001-2003), John Stocco (2003-2006), Ben Strickland (2004-2007), Mike Taylor (2009-2012) and Brandon Williams (2002-2005).

**About Easter Seals Wisconsin:** For over 90 years, Easter Seals Wisconsin ([www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com)) has provided services that help children and adults with disabilities gain greater independence. Easter Seals’ primary services – vocational rehabilitation, respite services, camping and recreation, information and referral, and public education – benefit close to 10,000 individuals with disabilities and their families each year throughout Wisconsin.

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