



**For Immediate Release**

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**Seattle Athletes Go For Another Win - A Win Against Heart Disease**

SEATTLE – Two of Seattle’s most popular athletes show their support in the fight against heart disease Saturday at The Hope Heart Institute’s 18<sup>th</sup> annual *On Wings of Hope* gala.

Former Seattle Mariner Edgar Martinez will join *On Wings of Hope* sponsors for a special event during the cocktail party. Martinez teams up with prized artist Michael Reagan to present a unique drawing of Edgar, signed by both men, as a live auction item to raise funds for The Hope’s education and research programs.

Another very special guest, Kayla Burt, the University of Washington basketball player who suffered cardiac arrest on New Years Eve 2002, will share her story with *On Wings of Hope* guests. Kayla, who returned to basketball just one year ago, was recently presented the Jim Valvano Award as “Comeback Player of the Year.”

The *On Wings of Hope* gala is The Hope’s biggest fundraiser to support cardiovascular research, education, and prevention outreach. The evening begins at 5 p.m. Saturday, November 5 at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel, located at 411 University Street and includes an elegant cocktail party, five-course dinner with fine wines, silent and live auctions, and live entertainment with dancing.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in America by astounding numbers – it takes more lives than the next four causes of death combined. With it’s annual *On Wings of Hope* gala, The Hope Heart Institute brings members of the community together to celebrate accomplishments, enlighten the magnitude of heart disease and build community awareness to ensure research and education programs continue at The Hope.

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual *On Wings of Hope* gala is generously sponsored by: Sound Heart, Group Health Cooperative, Seattle Heart & Vascular at Swedish Hospital, Hope Publications, Callison Architecture, Davis Wright Tremaine, Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason, Bank of America, Corazon Tequila and Alvin Goldfarb Jeweler.

*The Hope Heart Institute, one of the nation’s leading research and education institutes, is dedicated to serving humanity through cardiovascular research and education. It was founded in Seattle in 1959 by Dr. Lester R. Sauvage, a world-renowned cardiovascular surgeon and research scientist. He and The Hope earned international recognition through pioneering treatments in the fight against the nation’s No. 1 killer. Coronary artery bypass graft surgery was one of those breakthroughs. For more information, visit [www.hopeheart.org](http://www.hopeheart.org).*