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**ARIZONA CARDINALS QB SHAUN KING DETAILS PLANS FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Arizona Cardinals quarterback Shaun King returned to his hometown of St. Petersburg today to unveil plans for year two of his “King’s Kids” program – an educationally-based initiative that will continue to inspire and empower young people to get involved in the political process from a local, federal and international level.

King has again partnered with the Suncoast Boys and Girls Clubs to continue his program that will allow the youth of St. Petersburg to take full advantage of all the civic opportunities that are placed before them. King’s three-year plan will expose the students in his hometown to local, national, and international government. It is King’s goal that this program will inspire the children to appreciate and understand the political process we live by here in America.

“I want them to have a working knowledge of how things get done, locally, nationally, and internationally,” King said. “I also want them understand that living in a free society like the one we enjoy here in America is not the case for a lot of people living in different parts of the world. Taking an active part in the process, understanding the process, and becoming registered voters in order to change the process are some of the goals and objectives of my program.”

2005 kicks-off the second year of King’s three-year program, with the focus on federal government. Middle and high school students who are members of the Suncoast Boys and Girls Clubs are eligible to enroll and qualify for a five-day summer trip to Washington, D.C. Students selected for the trip must have successfully attended and completed a nine-week curriculum which will include instruction from social studies teachers, guest speakers, outside research projects, and classroom participation.

The 20 students who complete the curriculum will earn an all expense paid trip to our nation's capitol where they will see their federal government in action, meet and converse with legislators, and tour a variety of historical national monuments and museums.

Additionally, all students participating in the "King's Dream" program will be active participants in the planning and execution of the trip including the overall trip itinerary, letters to federal officials, scheduling hotel reservations, dinner reservations, airfare, transportation, and recreation.

"Every student who participates in this program not only will walk away with a better understanding of the political process, but they will be exposed to various, critical life skills that they will use for the rest of their lives," King said. "That's the purpose of the trip and my foundation. I want to do my part to make the lives better of the kids in my hometown."

In 2004, the first year of the program focused on state government. Students who qualified for this trip went to Tallahassee, Florida where they toured FSU and FAMU campuses, participated in a mock session at the House of Representatives and met Florida Governor Jeb Bush. The "King's Kids" program will concentrate on international government in year three of the program. Students who earn high enough marks for this trip will plan an itinerary to the United Nations Building in New York City and to NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

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