

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**CONTACT: KRISTEN Malfara (321) 506-2707  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MONTEL to feature The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project's Co-Founder Kristen Malfara**

*Local woman to be honored for her charitable achievements.*

**Melbourne Beach, FL.** - January 25, 2008 – Kristen Malfara, co-founder of The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project, will be honored on The Montel Williams Show (MONTEL) as one of five finalists of the 2007 Voices campaign. One voice can lead to a chorus for change.® is an annual campaign that honors women across America for their passion, leadership and achievements as everyday women who raise their voice to create positive change. The campaign is sponsored by Charming Shoppes, Inc., the parent company of Lane Bryant, Fashion Bug, Catherines and Petite Sophisticate.

Mrs. Malfara was selected as one of five finalists from thousands of nominations for the positive changes they have made in their communities. The Voices Campaign has partnered with MONTEL (The Montel Williams Show) to produce the Voices Winner's Finale, airing on Friday, 2/22/08 on WRBW at 2pm. Join in as Dorrit Bern, CEO of Charming Shoppes, Inc., honors each of the five finalists with a \$20,000 charitable grant and a "Dream Come True" vacation for four to Walt Disney World® Resort.

The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project was co-founded by Kristen and Robert Malfara in August of 2001, in honor of their precious son Morgan, who has a very rare form of Leukodystrophy. At that time, there were no support organizations, no networking groups, and certainly no "owner's manual" for parents facing a lifetime journey of caring for a severely disabled child diagnosed with a rare orphan disease that no one had ever heard of. Since then she has dedicated herself to creating an organization that will provide the guidance and support for other parents that find themselves in the same situation, and that they so desperately need.

"Robert and I feel honored to have been chosen to be the loving and caring parents of this very special, heaven-sent child. But most importantly, we also feel that it is our privilege to do so. This organization has given me a renewed purpose in my life, and every family that I help is just one more way that I get to honor Morgan and the inspiration that he truly is!"

In addition to the ongoing support programs that The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project offers, they recently began offering a "Quality-of-life" Small Grants program, with the goal to assist parents of medically fragile children with physical disabilities to access products that improve quality of life by providing them with the tools to be better able to care for their child in the family home. "My goal is to use my own experiences and frustrations with the lack of available support services and programs to help another parent just starting their journey of care, so that they don't go through the same sense of isolation and despair that we faced when we began our own journey with Morgan", stated Malfara. "I am honored and humbled to have been chosen to receive this national recognition by Charming Shoppes and The Montel Williams Show. This award will provide a national platform for The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project to promote awareness and support of parents caring for their chronically-ill special-needs children in the family home, and to spread the word about our "Quality-of-life" support programs for these special families."

The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project is now preparing for their signature annual FUNdraising campaign, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Turtle Splash that takes place on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 at Rykman Park in Melbourne Beach. Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are now available, and anyone interested in helping The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project raise funds to support their programs can get more information at [www.themorganproject.org](http://www.themorganproject.org), or by contacting The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project at (321) 506-2707.