

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Erin Woods  
[marketing@riverhouse.com](mailto:marketing@riverhouse.com)  
541-617-7174

### **The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala at The Riverhouse to Feature Guest Speaker, Former Redskins NFL Quarterback, Super Bowl MVP and Two-Time Pro Bowler, Mark Rypien**

**November 11, 2010 – Bend, OR** – The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala at The Riverhouse, administered by The Riverhouse and Central Oregon Visitors Association, announced today that Mark Rypien, Former Redskins NFL Quarterback, Super Bowl MVP, and two-time Pro Bowler will be the guest speaker at the Gala set for January 17, 2011. Proceeds from this event will benefit Sparrow Clubs.

After attending high school in Spokane, Rypien played college football at Washington State University before being drafted by the Washington Redskins in the 1986 NFL Draft. With the Redskins, he played eight seasons with the height of his career occurring in 1991. In that year, Rypien threw for 3,564 yards and 28 touchdowns, leading the Redskins to Super Bowl XXVI after a 14-2 regular season record. He was named the MVP of the game, passing for 292 yards and 2 touchdowns and leading his team to a 37-24 win over the Buffalo Bills. Rypien, a native of Alberta, became the first foreign born player to earn the honor. Rypien was named to the Pro Bowl in both 1989 and 1991.

Founded nineteen years ago, the Gala has raised over \$1,250,000 for beneficiaries such as KIDS Center, Family Resource Center, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Oregon, Ronald McDonald House, Every Kid Fund, Deschutes Children's Foundation, Tower Theater, Cascade Youth and Family Center, Habitat For Humanity, Volunteers in Medicine and Heart of Oregon Corp. Proceeds from The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala will benefit Sparrow Clubs. Sparrow Clubs matches local children in medical need or crisis with neighborhood schools and young people who 'adopt' the child and family. It helps kids 'find their wings' and rise above their own difficulties by helping others.

The Gala at The Riverhouse is a unique fundraiser in that The Riverhouse graciously donates the food and beverages, facility, labor, and production for this elegant event, thereby ensuring that 100% of ticket sales directly benefit the selected charity. The Gala continues to be the tourism industry's most significant single event to benefit the community and people of Central Oregon. The evening will include an elegant five course meal, a one-of-a-kind silent auction and special guest appearance and presentation by Mark Rypien.

Individual tickets are on sale now for \$125 and corporate tables for 8 are available for \$1000. Tickets are limited and sell out quickly. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.riverhouse.com/gala](http://www.riverhouse.com/gala) or call Lisa Kuhlmann at 541-550-0405.

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