

**tz München, 08/03/2006**

## **BACK TO LIFE WITH THE HELP OF A DOLPHIN**

Dolphins help children! On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the support organization, dolphin aid founder Kirsten Kuhnert and prince Leopold from Bavaria planned a get-together for all ambassadors at the Hotel "Bayerischer Hof" in Munich. Kirsten Kuhnert, who founded dolphin aid in 1995, stressed that she would never have succeeded without the help of these very special people.

"It all began the very day my son Tim woke up from a 15 months long coma. With loud laughter he reentered the world. The same evening the idea was born to make this therapy also available to other children. Over the years, we grew continuously. Last year alone we helped 348 children". Altogether, 1.400 families have attended therapy. Kirsten Kuhnert remembers the beginnings.

"Our very first dolphin aid phone was my private one and the very first patron prince Leopold from Bavaria, who back then did not hesitate to join the organization. Together with his special-needs daughter, now age 27, he flew to Florida and was deeply impressed when first meeting the dolphins". Actor Ralph Moeller had a similar experience. "The moment when you first swim with a dolphin, whether you are a child or not, is unbelievable. To see the happy faces of the children rewards me in so many ways". Until the wee hours, memories were exchanged. Kirsten Kuhnert says: "It is the first time in the history of dolphin aid that we all met, regardless of other obligations." During the evening, the press speaker from AUDI Mr. Juergen Pippig, handed in a check in the amount of 50.000.00 Euro to dolphin aid. The meeting was also attended by founding member Birgit Lechtermann, Julianne Hielscher, Norbert Dobeleit, Goetz Otto and princess Ursula zu Hohenlohe, who organized the event.