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**COLLEGE FOOTBALL ASSISTANCE FUND AWARDS GRANT TO
FORMER LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL PLAYER**

May 20, 2013 (Tulsa, OK) – On Saturday, October 27, 2012 Sterling Thomas, a freshman defensive back at Lindenwood University (St. Charles, MO), suffered a catastrophic spinal cord injury in a football game against Missouri Southern State. Despite months of care and rehabilitation, the injury has left Sterling paralyzed from the waist down.

Sterling has recently returned home to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma to live with his mother and father after spending time in the Shepherd Center Spinal Cord Injury Program in Atlanta. Their modest home, however, was not built to take care of someone confined to a wheelchair.

Today, the **College Football Assistance Fund (CFAF)** announced that a grant of \$10,000.00 will be awarded to help with costs associated with construction to build onto the Thomas Family home. A new 400 square foot, wheelchair-accessible room will be built for Sterling, connected to the family home by a breezeway.

“We will do whatever is necessary to give the best quality of life we can to our son, which includes modifications to our home,” said Mike Thomas, Sterling’s father. “However, the costs are too much for us to afford; we are blessed to have the support of the College Football Assistance Fund.”

“On behalf of the CFAF and all of our supporters, I am pleased that we can help the Thomas Family in their time of need,” said CFAF Board Member, SMU Football Coach June Jones. “The family will still have hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs, though. We need others to step up and help.”

Cost of the home renovations will be over \$35,000.00 in total, meaning fundraising efforts must continue. Those able to assist Sterling Thomas and his family can make donations at www.CFAFund.org, which will be put in a restricted fund for Sterling.

“The Lindenwood community is grateful for the generous donation from the College Football Assistance Fund,” said Lindenwood University’s Associate Athletic Director Scott Queen. “We are still doing what we can to help the family, but there are just so many costs associated with an injury like this that insurance will not cover.”

ABOUT CFAF

The College Football Assistance Fund (CFAF) is a non-profit tax-exempt organization dedicated to the support of football players who have sustained serious injuries through college football. Assistance will be provided to ease the burden of medical costs associated with injuries such as joint replacement, spine treatment, neurological care and other related expenses.

The CFAF was established in 2010 by a group of collegiate coaches and athletic administrators concerned about the limited resources available to injured football players. Major donors include some of today’s top college football coaches and Bowls.

For more information about CFAF, please visit www.CFAFund.org.

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