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Danny Wuerffel and Desire Street Ministries Featured in Telly Award-Winning Documentary by Visionaries

ATLANTA (June 3, 2019) – Former University of Florida quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner, Danny Wuerffel, announced today that Desire Street Ministries is featured in an award-winning *Visionaries* documentary “*Turning Barriers into Bridges*,” which has begun airing on public television stations across the country. The documentary is this year’s Bronze Telly Winner in the category of Television: Social Responsibility. “With a record-shattering number of entries, this year’s Telly Award entrants truly represent the most innovative video and television work being made for all screens,” says Sabrina Dridje, Managing Director of The Telly Awards.

Visionaries (visionaries.org), in its 23rd season, is hosted by Sam Waterston of HBO’s *The Newsroom* and *Grace and Frankie* and formerly of *Law & Order*. The series highlights rarely told stories of nonprofit organizations around the world that are working to make a positive difference in their community and beyond. “*Turning Barriers into Bridges*” spotlights Desire Street’s approach to combatting challenges in low-income neighborhoods across the Southeastern US.

“We’re especially delighted that the film gives us the opportunity to showcase our ministry partners. Leaders like these are working to reach hundreds of kids and families in under-resourced neighborhoods with life-transforming programs,” says Wuerffel. “These heroes are there day-in and day-out, helping with a lot of needs and challenges, and it’s easy for them to burn out. We encourage, equip and connect them with others doing similar work. When we all support and learn from each other, leaders are able to avoid the pitfalls and be there for the long-run necessary to see revitalization.”

Leaders featured on the documentary include Justina Dix/Summerhill Community Ministries (summerhillcm.org), LaTonya Gates-Boston/PAWKids (pawkids.org), Benjamin Wills/Peace Preparatory Academy (peaceprep.com), Drew Henley/Redeemer Community Church (redeemeratl.org) and Ben McLeish/Thrive NOLA (thrivenola.org).

“We also connect organizations and individuals wanting to make an impact on the issues facing these communities,” says Wuerffel. “We each have personal networks, expertise and resources. When we envision how to best connect that social capital with leaders who are ready to put it to good use, amazing things can happen. Ministries where transformation and hope begin lead to encouragement that stimulates revitalization.”

Wuerffel has long been using his social capital for the greater good. “The Heisman has given me opportunities to meet so many great people along the way. It’s always a privilege to share a little bit about Desire Street with these folks, and get them thinking about ways they could help. And that’s what Desire Street is doing for our partners—using our platform to introduce and connect people. We call Desire Street the intersection of lives, leaders and neighborhoods,” says Wuerffel.

Check desirestreet.org/bridges for more information on air dates.