

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 5, 2006

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### **“HOLY GHOST PARTY!” RAISES OVER \$20,000**

Charity Partners of Austin, a local philanthropy group, kicked off their 2006-2007 fundraising season with the “Holy Ghost Party,” an incredible night of gospel music at the historic Paramount theatre. The event benefited the Sickle Cell Association of Austin, Marc Thomas chapter, a nonprofit that provides support and advocacy for children and families with sickle cell disease in the greater Austin area. Event community participants included the Paramount theatre, Tony’s Southern Comfort restaurant, and local and Texas-based performers Ruthie Foster, James Hand, Seth Walker, Jones Family Singers, Endurance, and the St James Baptist Church choir.

What an incredible night of music! Days after the maiden “Holy Ghost Party!” at the Paramount Theatre June 4, 900-plus fans are still buzzing about the rafter-shaking performances of Ruthie Foster, Jones Family Singers, Endurance, James Hand, Seth Walker, and the St. James Baptist Church Choir. A near-capacity, racially diverse crowd hung in there for almost four hours on a Sunday night because the intensity just kept rising and nobody wanted to hear the next day about what they missed. ME Television got this “Hallelujahpalooza” all on camera for an upcoming Sunday morning gospel program. “We are so moved and pleased by this event,” said Linda Thomas, Executive Director of the Sickle Cell Association. “It was a wonderful, spiritual night for the community, and it allowed us to spread our message to such a wide audience.”

The show was curated by Mr. Michael Corcoran, music writer for the Austin American Statesman, and also supported by Marsha Milam from Milam Music Productions. “Charity Partners may have created a new Austin tradition from a music and entertainment standpoint,” said Corcoran. “Holy Ghost Party!” was like Carnival goes to church, a rollicking night of praise songs that had the entire crowd on its feet several times. That spirit is something to build on. Look for “Holy Ghost Party II” in the coming months!

**The Marc Thomas Chapter of the Sickle Cell Association of Austin** provides advocacy and support for individuals and families in a continuing effort to enhance and preserve the quality of life for Sickle Cell patients and their families. "This is such an important event for us," said Linda Thomas, the Executive Director of the group. "Not only are the funds critical to our mission, but the spirit that will be present at the event from the community will be so special to us and our families." <http://www.marcthomas.org/>

### **About Charity Partners of Austin**

Charity Partners of Austin is a local philanthropy group that produces music and artistic events, and donates all proceeds through grants to local nonprofits that provide support for kids, families, and appreciation of the arts. They are a 100% volunteer-based organization with no paid staff, operating under the nonprofit umbrella of the Austin Community Foundation. In their inaugural 2005-2006 fundraising season they have raised and distributed over \$208,000. Major events this season have included:

- **"Live 2005, For the Kids"** featuring Irma Thomas at Antones that raised \$50,000 for Any Baby Can and others.
- The **"Austin Cares"** hurricane relief benefit at Paramount Theatre that included an all-star Austin lineup of Jerry Jeff Walker, Jimmy LaFave, Ray Benson, and many others that raised \$45,000 going to Caritas, Health Alliance for Austin Musicians, Austin Children's Shelter, Samaritan Center, Assistance League of Austin, Odyssey School, and Austin Revitalization Authority.
- The **"Send a Kid to the Theatre"** initiative that raised \$5,400 and sent hundreds of kids to see 'A Christmas Carol' at State Theatre and 'Charlottes Web' at Paramount Theatre free of charge.
- **"Got Soul?"** featuring Collective Soul, which raised \$108,000 for Odyssey School and others.

Charity Partners of Austin founders include:

- **Kevin Kettler**, current Chief Technology Officer at Dell Inc, and a lead investor in the ME Television network and other Austin ventures.
- **Alan Luecke**, former Dell Inc executive, a lead investor in the ME Television network and other Austin ventures, and Vice President of the Board of the Austin Theatre Alliance.
- **Jeff Savage**, former Dell Inc technologist, an investor in multiple ventures, and a Board member of Odyssey School.

For more information on Charity Partners of Austin, visit our website at [www.charitypartnersofaustin.org](http://www.charitypartnersofaustin.org)