

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHARITY PARTNERS DONATES \$13,000 TO THEATRE ACTION PROJECT

Charity Partners of Austin, a local philanthropy group, donated \$13,000 to the Theatre Action Project www.theatreactionproject.org in a fundraiser held October 6th. Theatre Action Project is an Austin-based non-profit that uses theatre and the creative arts to explore social issues and develop the self-esteem of over 11,000 young people a year!

"This was our first real fundraising event, so it was really exciting for us to connect with people who support the arts but haven't heard of TAP," said Karen LaShelle, Executive Director of TAP. "Thanks to Charity Partners of Austin and all those in attendance, we'll be able to reach even more young people in Austin - all that, and it was also a blast!"

The event was held in the home of Charity Partners members Lori and Ron Olfers, and featured music from rising Austin star Rachel Loy, along with Sara Hickman performing songs from her recent CD release "Motherlode." Local small businesses supporting the event included 2 Dine 4 Fine Catering and Cork & Co. Guests helped to raise money through a live auction that included Rolling Stones VIP tickets and limo service, concert tickets for Aretha Franklin and Bo Diddly, a private wine-tasting event at Cork & Co., a night on the town at Paramount Theatre and Driskill Hotel, and use of a private home in Aspen, Colorado.

Charity Partners of Austin produces music and arts events and donates net proceeds to Austin-area non-profits, focusing on smaller organizations that support kids and families in need.

Theatre Action Project

Theatre Action Project's mission is to create and promote socially relevant interactive theatre and educational programming that activates community dialogue, self-discovery and social change. We have served the greater Austin area since 1997. www.theatreactionproject.org

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 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.
- **Holy Ghost Party** featuring a variety of Gospel performers at Paramount Theatre, which raised over \$20,000 for Sickel Cell Association of Austin 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