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**Charity Partners of Austin and the Paramount Theatre Announce Final Grant Awards for Proceeds from the September 28, 2005 "Austin Cares" Benefit Concert: More than \$45,000 Raised to Assist Hurricane Katrina and Rita Evacuees**

AUSTIN, Texas, November 15, 2005 -- Charity Partners of Austin and the Paramount Theatre today announce the distribution of proceeds from the recent "Austin Cares" benefit concert. The September 28 event was organized to raise money for local nonprofit groups that have already and are continuing to assist Hurricane Katrina and Rita victims.

More than \$45,000 was raised and 100% of the funds have been distributed to six local charities: Austin Revitalization Authority, Assistance League of Austin, Austin Children's Shelter, Caritas of Austin, Health Alliance for Austin Musicians, and Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care. These nonprofit groups provide a broad range of support for lower-income youths and families, and many promote cultural diversity and appreciation of arts and music.

As a leading arts organization in Austin, the Paramount Theatre coordinated dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals to deliver a 100% cost-free concert that included Jerry Jeff Walker, Ray Benson, Jimmy LaFave, Ruthie Foster, Reckless Kelly, Bruce Robison, and Eric Johnson, all of whom volunteered their time. "One of the key goals of the State and Paramount Theatres is to use our stages to provide outreach to the community in promoting the arts and Austin artists. We see our ability to orchestrate fundraisers such as 'Austin Cares' as being a core piece of our mission," said Ken Stein, Executive Director of the Paramount Theatre. "We're thrilled with the success of the event and appreciate the enormous generosity provided by the Austin community." A special thanks to Mr. Clifford Antone, who made the entire event possible by coordinating the participation of the musicians. Mr. Antone has donated his time and services towards multiple hurricane-related benefits.

As a co-sponsor of the benefit, Charity Partners of Austin managed the process to determine the allocation of grant awards. "We're very pleased to distribute these critical funds to non-profit groups that have helped hurricane evacuees improve their current living situation," said Kevin Kettler, co-founder of Charity Partners of Austin. "All charities receiving the grant dollars have targeted, high-impact programs that help affected individuals and families to recover and heal."

Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care provides affordable, professional mental health counseling for children and families. "Mental health counseling is critical to those suffering from emotional and psychological stress-related symptoms associated with traumatic events and disasters" said Nancy Blaich, Executive Director for Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care. "The generous donation from the 'Austin Cares' effort allows us to treat approximately 70 individuals who have been impacted by the recent hurricane tragedies."

The Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM) provides medical, dental, and mental health services to uninsured musicians who do not have access to regular healthcare. "Many of the New Orleans musicians are relocating to Austin, a city that rightfully prides itself on the quality, quantity, and variety of its live music," notes Robin Shivers, Chairman of the Board, HAMM. "With the 'Austin Cares' grant, we're able to provide services to New Orleans musicians who've been displaced by Hurricane Katrina."

Charity Partners of Austin is a highly-efficient, 100% volunteer-based nonprofit organization that supports charities through the production of musical and artistic events. All proceeds are donated to local nonprofits, with particular emphasis on those that may be under-resourced, provide support for lower income children and families, and encourage cultural diversity. Charity Partners of Austin operates under the Austin Community Foundation.