

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHARITY PARTNERS OF AUSTIN SUPPORTS “FIRST NIGHT 2007”

Charity Partners of Austin, a local philanthropy group, is supporting the efforts of First Night 2007 by coordinating entertainment for the Family Festival portion of the program. Charity Partners will work with several local non-profit organizations that provide musical and artistic education and outreach to low-income kids and families in the Greater Austin area.

“One of the key goals of Charity Partners of Austin is to provide as many children as possible with the opportunity to be inspired by the arts,” said Alan Luecke, a co-founder of CPA. “The goals of First Night are right in line with ours, and it will be a pleasure to be involved in this great event.”

The program, entitled “My Gig at First Night,” will include the following non-profit groups:

- **Groundwork Music**, www.groundworkmusic.org provides free and low cost music education to Austin Preschools
- **Anthropos**, www.anthropos.org promotes equal opportunity in music education by providing free lessons and workshops to middle and high school students in East Austin.
- **Theatre Action Project**, www.theatreactionproject.org inspires thousands of kids each year through the creation of socially relevant and interactive theatre and educational programming in Austin-area schools.
- **Austin School of Music**, www.austinschoolofmusic.com with a philosophy is to pair students with professional, world-class performers to show them how rewarding music can be.
- **Shining Starz**, www.shiningstarz.org enhances and enriches the lives of youths who wish to nurture their singing abilities and learn about careers in music.
- **Keys of Life**, provides free piano lessons and mentoring for youths in East Austin.

Rounding out the set will be **The Jones Family Singers**, the rousing gospel band made of up three generations of the Jones Family from Bay City, Texas, who have brought the house down this year at SXSW, ACL Fest and Charity Partners’ “Holy Ghost Party” at the Paramount theatre.

Charity Partners of Austin encourages everyone to come downtown on New Years Eve and support First Night Austin!

For more information on the First Night Event and the Charity Partners “My Gig” performance schedules, please visit the First Night website at www.firstnightaustin.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. Since their inaugural 2005-2006 fundraising season they have raised and distributed over \$250,000 back into the Greater Austin community. 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 the Sickle Cell Association of Austin and others.
- **Theatre Action Project Party** featuring Rachel Loy and Sara Hickman, which raised almost \$20, 000 for TAP and others.

Charity Partners of Austin founders include:

- **Kevin Kettler**, current Chief Technology Officer at Dell Inc, and a lead investor in the M&E Television network and other Austin ventures.
- **Alan Luecke**, a Dell Inc executive, and a lead investor in the M&E Television network and other Austin ventures, and Board member of the Austin Theatre Alliance and Austin Music Foundation.
- **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