



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Kristina Thompson, Marketing Manager
kthompson@centerforchildprotection.org
Office: 512-472-1164

Dancing with the Stars Austin Raises More Than \$900,000 to benefit the Center for Child Protection

Austin, Texas – December 7, 2010 –The 4th Annual *Dancing with the Stars Austin*, presented by Lexus of Austin, was held at the Hilton Austin on Sunday, December 5, to benefit the Center for Child Protection, a nationally accredited children's advocacy center serving children of Travis County. The event, coupled with the Center's annual luxury car raffle, grossed more than \$900,000. The Center is the only nonprofit in Travis County involved with investigations of crimes against children.

Event co-chairs, Maria Groten and Mary Herr Tally, orchestrated an impressive guest list of Austin notables including Senator Kirk Watson; Mayor Lee Leffingwell; honorary event chairs, Eloise and John Paul DeJoria; Chief Art Acevedo; and Turk Pipkin, one of three judges for the night. Other judges included Ed Clements from KLBJ and Michael Barnes, social columnist for the Austin American Statesman. Sabrina Barker-Truscott of All Ways Dance served as dance director and emcee for the night.

"We are so grateful to our co-chairs Maria Groten and Mary Tally for making *Dancing with the Stars Austin* so successful," said Sandra Martin, CEO of the Center for Child Protection. "They have grown this event over the years together with Sabrina Barker-Truscott, our devoted professional dancers, Lexus of Austin and this generous community."

In festive dance attire, ten of Austin's community leaders and philanthropists glided across the dance floor with their professional dance partner, performing the Cha-Cha, Hustle Tango and Salsa for 900 guests in the Hilton Austin Grand Ballroom. Featured Austinites included Kristie Dennis, a sustaining supporter for the Center for Child Protection and community volunteer; Chef David Garrido, owner of Garrido's; Stacey Hammer, philanthropist and community volunteer; Dr. John Hogg, radiologist and community leader; Mickey Klein, oil and gas exploration professional and University of Texas supporter; Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez, City Council member; Charmaine Denius McGill, Director of the Cain Foundation; Joe Ross, entrepreneur and community volunteer; Amy Rudy, community volunteer; and Wendy Topfer, community volunteer and member of the Topfer Family Foundation.

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Audience votes were compiled and celebrity dancer Charmaine McGill and her professional dance partner Curtis Prevost were winners of the coveted mirror-ball trophy. They performed a sultry tango with colorful costumes. The first runner-up was Dr. John Hogg with his professional dance partner, Klair Van Slyke and the second runner-up was Michael Klein with professional partner Susan Kirklin.

In addition to the dance competition, guests enjoyed a live auction for two spots in the 2011 Dancing with the Stars Austin. Uniformed officers from the Travis County Sheriff's Office, Austin Police Department, Manor Police Department and Sunset Valley Police Department took part in the event, serving as bid spotters during the live auction and fund-a-need. Following dinner and the dance competition, the raffle drawing took place and Marycane Hansen of Austin was awarded the grand prize 2011 Lexus IS 250 C convertible. Jesus Sandoval of Austin won the \$2500 gift card from HEB and the \$1000 Continental Airlines and two Gold OnePass memberships went to Douglas Traylor. The night ended with dancing and a live performance by The Spazmatics.

Center for Child Protection

The Center for Child Protection, a nationally accredited children's advocacy center, is the first stop for children in Travis County who are suspected victims of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse and for children who have witnessed a violent crime. The Center is a child-friendly, specially-equipped facility where children go for recorded forensic interviews, medical exams, counseling and intervention during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. It is the only nonprofit in Travis County involved in the investigation of crimes against children. All services are provided to children and their protective caregivers at no charge. In 2009, the Center served nearly 1,500 children and more than 1,100 adults. For more information, please call 512-472-1164 or visit www.centerforchildprotection.org.