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PRESS RELEASE

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EAST TEXAS COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION GIVES THEIR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO SMITH COUNTY

TYLER, December 14, 2006— The holidays are a time of giving, which is why **East Texas Communities Foundation** is **rewarding** 13 hard working **Smith County nonprofit organizations** with the extra **funding** they need to support strategic projects and programs to help people in need in Smith County. **East Texas Communities Foundation will host its 2006 Grant Cycle reception Friday, December 15th at 8:30am at the Genecov Room in the Blackstone Building (315 N. Broadway, Tyler).** These 13 organizations were chosen because they demonstrated compelling needs, and strategic opportunities to benefit many members of our community. This grant process is funded by an Unrestricted Charitable Endowment Fund for Smith County at East Texas Communities Foundation. Committee members chosen by ETCF and The United Way of Smith County assist with the grant selection process. Our goal at East Texas Communities Foundation is to increase philanthropy giving in our community. Generous donors have established this Foundation, and this fund in particular, to create a lasting impact on the East Texas Community.

This year's outstanding organizations receiving grants are as follows:

The Hospice of East Texas

Purpose: To provide equipment to launch the "Life Disk" program, which will record patient memories and stories as a gift to the family.

Mother's Against Drunk Driving: East Texas, Tyler Affiliate

Purpose: To purchase Class Packs, which are designed for use in schools to educate young people on how to be safe and make healthy decisions as they grow up.

Bethesda Health Clinic

Purpose: To purchase equipment and furniture which will provide a safe environment for children while their parents attend the Diabetes and Chronic Disease Clinics.

Christian Women's Job Corps of Tyler

Purpose: To purchase software to teach computer training in the accounting field so that the students may strengthen their job skills and broaden their available employment opportunities.

Boys and Girls Clubs of East Texas:

Purpose: To purchase math and science learning equipment for children who will use the new Boys and Girls Clubs of East Texas to be located near Griffin Elementary.

Tyler Youth Orchestra:

Purpose: To purchase music stands and music for the newly formed Tyler Academic Orchestra. This is an intermediate level orchestra to fill the gap between the Tyler Preparatory Orchestra and the Tyler Youth Orchestra.

The Salvation Army of Tyler:

Purpose: To purchase soccer goals for the recreation area and children's programs at the Center of Hope.

The Women's Symphony League of Tyler:

Purpose: To help bring "Das Puppenspiel Puppet Theatre" to perform with the East Texas Symphony Orchestra at its annual Young People Series Concerts in January 2007.

Parent Services Center, Inc.:

Purpose: To help the Parents Services Center, Inc. expand and enhance current programming through the addition of new curriculum and new educational training materials.

East Texas Area Council, Boy Scouts of America:

Purpose: To help increase the number of Hispanic 1st-5th grade boys (Cub Scouts) and their fathers participating in the Dad and Lad Weekend Camping program.

ADAPT (Adolescent Development and Achievement Program of Tyler, Inc.):

Purpose: To help purchase Spanish and English videotapes for the expanded WHO (We Help Ourselves) program. This program teaches children concepts and strategies of personal safety.

Literacy Council of Tyler:

Purpose: To help with funding to launch the new Family Learning Center of Tyler, a collaborative community-based initiative dedicated to providing quality child and family services to families from the Greater Tyler Community.

Cancer Foundation for Life:

Purpose: To provide a new treadmill to accommodate the remarkable growth of their conditioning program for cancer survivors and the referrals from the Bethesda Clinic.

Total Amount Awarded: \$12,000.00

The mission of the East Texas Communities Foundation is to promote charitable giving which enhances the quality of life. So far this year, the Foundation has given over 2.7 million dollars in grants which is an increase of over 50% from total grants awarded in 2005. The foundation serves as a flexible and cost-effective vehicle for donors to invest in their East Texas community.

For more information, please call 903.533.0208 or log on to our website at www.etcf.org