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Kristi House Touch A Heart Dinner & Auction Makes Record Net Profit for Sexually Abused Children

Miami - The 5th Annual Kristi House Touch a Heart Dinner & Auction was a sold-out success raising a record \$270,000 in net profits Nov. 6th at Miami's Four Seasons. Two hundred forty guests, along with outstanding sponsors and an auction of exquisite wines, unique gifts and exclusive getaways, made this the most successful fundraising event in Kristi House's eight-year history.

"Through this special event, the children we serve and help at Kristi House have benefited from the generosity of some of Miami's most philanthropic families," Event Chair and Board Member Julia Bianchi said. "On behalf of these children who have been so tragically victimized by sexual abuse, we are truly grateful for our community's support and for helping to touch the hearts of children in need."

More than 800 white roses donated by Esmeralda Farms and arranged by Layne Tidwell Designs and hundreds of votive candles created an ambiance of sparkling, understated elegance. Guests were greeted with champagne and hors d'oeuvres, after which they feasted on a five-course gourmet meal with accompanying wine pairings. Eli Valdez of National Distributing Company was the evening's wine sponsor and provided trips to Italy and Sonoma. Mike Bittel of Sunset Corners Fine Wines and Spirits was instrumental in securing much of the evening's wine and dinner donations

and was also responsible for the extensive descriptions for the various donated wine lots.

The live auction was anchored by auctioneer Tom Gross, who has helped raise millions for charity around the country. Auction items included a week's stay at a home in the Hamptons, a progressive dinner through the wine cellars of some of Miami's most beautiful homes, dinner prepared in your home by renowned chef Robin Haas, wines, trips to Italy and Sonoma, and a day on the set of *CSI Miami* donated by David Carusso. A selection of fabulous cruises were donated by The Yachts of Seabourne, Silversea, SeaDream Yacht Club, Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises, Radisson Seven Seas Cruises, Carnival and by Canodros, a cruise about the Galapagos Explorer II. Airfare was provided by American Airlines.

Guest favors included sterling bookmarks engraved with the Kristi House logo created for Kristi House and donated by Montica Jewelers, as well as Space Pens donated by Fisher Pens. Jazz music and vocals were provided by Be Bob Productions.

Dinner sponsors were led by The de Olazarra Family Foundation, along with National Distributing Company; Eliza and Hugh Culverhouse; The Fana Holtz Foundation, Nancy & Robert Hector; Jr., Colson Hicks Eidson; Stewart Tilghman Fox Bianchi, PA; Ms. Ella Cisneros; Teamwork Construction; Bill Ussery Motors; Berta and James Blecke; Greenberg Traurig, LLP; Hogan & Hartson LLP; Northern Trust; and Montica Jewelers.

Event photos and the complete list of donors and auction items are available at www.kristihouse.org.