

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Mary Ulich
Development Consultant
678-524-5138
mary.ulich@withintentsolutions.com

Kati Keyes
Marketing and Development Coordinator
770-772-4555
kkeyes@thelionheartschool.com

Auction Gala to Benefit The Lionheart School for Children with Autism

ATLANTA (December 18, 2008) – Pens and paddles will be flying as people raise bids at the 9th Annual Taste of Lionheart Auction and Wine Tasting. The event will be held Saturday, January 24, 2009 at 7 pm. Parents of students, friends of Lionheart families, and community members are all encouraged to attend the auction, which raises critical dollars to support the annual fund of The Lionheart School.

“We have a great auction planned this year! This year, we are excited to have some of our attendees favorite items donated again by our supporters, and some fabulous new items--a cocktail party for ten at Park Tavern, beautiful jewelry by Betsy Clayton Designs, week long vacation stays in Highlands, North Carolina, and a dinner for 8 at the Ponce. The live auction is sure to inspire vigorous bidding with a week long stay in a private residence on St. John’s Island coupled with two round trip tickets on AirTran, and an adorable labradoodle puppy. There is sure to be something for everyone,” says Diane Smith, The Lionheart School auction chair. We will have artwork, jewelry, fashion, sports tickets, autographed sports memorabilia and much more.

Tamara Spafford, Lionheart’s Executive Director, stresses how important this event is to the success of the school. “Because of our low staff to student ratio, our costs cannot be met by tuition alone. The dollars we raise allow us to keep the staff we need to serve the very unique needs of each of our students, and to allow for adding to our programming and curriculum with leading edge technologies and effective methods and therapies to meet those needs.” Jerrill Sprinkle, Lionheart parent and Chairman of the Governing Board of The Lionheart School adds, “We are so fortunate to have such a generous group of people attend our auction year after year, and we are especially grateful for everyone’s support during these tough times. Lionheart has a proven track record of stretching every dollar to best benefit the children, and this year especially, every last cent will be used to maximum effect.”

The Lionheart School is a 501 (c) (3) independent SACS/SAIS accredited school, founded by some of the Southeast’s leading Early Childhood Education professionals and a group of families unable to find a school or program which fit the needs of their children. The goal was to create a new type of learning environment - one which combines the area’s finest Special Education teachers, Speech, Occupational and Music Therapy professionals and concerned and active parents. The Lionheart School’s methods have become a national prototype for the education of children with autism and other disorders of relating and communicating. While many schools for children on the autism spectrum focus on rote learning and compliance, the Lionheart School emphasizes relationships, abstract critical thinking, problem solving, and social cognition.

For more information about sponsorship, donating items, or to purchase tickets for \$75, go to www.thelionheartschool.com, or call Kati Keyes at 770-772-4555. # # #