



For Immediate Release

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The Lionheart School's 9th Annual Auction and Wine Tasting a huge success

Elegant event nets over \$150,000 for school for children with special needs

ATLANTA (February 2, 2009) – The Lionheart School today announced that it netted over \$150,000 at the 9th Annual *A Taste of Lionheart* on Saturday, January 24, 2009. Guests at the elegant event enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres, a pasta bar, fantastic auctions, and a moving DVD presentation featuring Lionheart families explaining their search for an appropriate educational setting for their child with special needs.

Sally Beamer Silverman, a friend of a Lionheart family, shared her story of living with a Lionheart family for five weeks after she and her husband lost their house to a fire. “Last summer, I lived firsthand what this school is all about. I gained a new understanding of the depth of the needs of these special children and their families. Also, the amazing work that the staff at Lionheart is doing for their students became very clear,” remarked Silverman.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit the educational programs at Lionheart. Chairman of the board, Jerrill Sprinkle, told the audience, “The need for appropriate developmental education for children on the autism spectrum is growing, and we are addressing that need, and continue to expand the reach of the methods we know work so well for our children.”

The event was attended by over 350 people, some of whom have attended all nine Lionheart auctions. Auction chair and Lionheart parent Diane Smith commented, “We continue to be overwhelmed and humbled by the generous support of the parents, families, staff and friends of Lionheart. Once again, we exceeded our expectations much in the same way we are watching our children exceed theirs. We have so many who donate time and services for the auction, which allows us to use 90% of the funds raised directly towards curriculum needs, therapeutic interventions and scholarships.”

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 The Lionheart School, go to www.thelionheartschool.com, or call Kati Keyes at 770-772-4555. # # #