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St. Jude's Ranch for Children Wins \$100,000 for Transitional Living Program in San Antonio *Impact San Antonio Awards Largest Grant to Date*

San Antonio, TX November 7, 2008 – St. Jude's Ranch for Children's was honored to be awarded a \$100,000 grant from Impact San Antonio last Thursday, Oct. 30. St. Jude's Ranch was one of five finalists, presenting in the Health and Wellness category in hopes of moving its Transitional Living Program, currently run at the organization's campus in Bulverde, TX, to San Antonio. St. Jude's Ranch was among more than 80 South Texas organizations who applied for the grant.

An impressive and moving presentation was given to a majority of the 105 members of Impact San Antonio by St. Jude's Ranch Chief Executive Officer Christine Spadafor, Bulverde Campus Director Arnold Valdez, and 18-year-old Bulverde campus resident and Transitional Living Program member Matt. In closed session the Impact members made their challenging vote and St. Jude's Ranch was the majority choice for the \$100,000 grant.

"This is a significant milestone for St. Jude's Ranch, our Transitional Living Program, and our Bulverde campus," Spadafor said. "Our Transitional Living Program has accomplished amazing advancements and growth in the past two years, and now we are being recognized for it by competing against more than 80 substantial area organizations and winning the grant based on those merits. This award truly puts St. Jude's Ranch on the map in San Antonio!"

St. Jude's Ranch for Children will use this grant to move its Transitional Living Program from its Bulverde campus to San Antonio, allowing 12 teenagers to learn and live the life skills necessary to become a thriving and responsible adult member of the San Antonio community. The program residents will now be closer to schools, jobs and public transit, giving them the opportunity to thrive in a real urban setting. Additionally, by moving the program to San Antonio, St. Jude's Ranch will be able to provide care for 12 more "Basic Care" children on its Bulverde campus.

The 2008 Impact San Antonio grant for \$100,000 is the largest amount awarded by Impact to date – almost double the amount of the 2007 grant. Impact San Antonio Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) foundation committed to expanding philanthropy in San Antonio by empowering women as both donors and decision-makers. Impact San Antonio recruits members who each donate \$1,000 a year to make an annual grant to a worthy San Antonio area nonprofit organization. The grant process was competitive this year with more than 80 charities submitting applications for consideration. The applications were reviewed by Impact members and 20 were selected for site visits and more in-depth review. The 20 were then distilled to a final group of five, who gave live presentations to Impact members.

Since Impact was made up of 105 members this year, therefore collecting \$105,000 for donation, the four

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remaining finalists each received \$1,250. Those recipients were: Youth Orchestras of San Antonio, Sisters of the Charity of the Incarnate Word, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, and TeamAbility.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children rescues abused, abandoned and neglected children of all races and faiths from the vicious cycle of child abuse. They provide healing and nurturing in a safe home-like environment where children can learn life skills to start new lives with new chances, new choices and new hope. The Transitional Living Program is one of the most distinctive learning experiences that benefit eligible children ages 16 to 21 years old. The program prepares its residents for integration into society by teaching them life skills to become self-sufficient, productive, civic-minded citizens.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children has just launched its newly redesigned and user-friendly web site. In addition to learning more about who we are and what we do, there are many stories about our amazing children and how those interested can help the kids. The enhanced site also offers video clips, more photos, news headlines, and consistently updated information about all the exciting happenings going on. Visit the new site at: **www.stjudesranch.org**.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children
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