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HOUSE OF BLUES® HOSTS A PARTY FOR A CAUSE 5th Anniversary Celebration Benefits A Reason To Survive (ARTS)

San Diego, Calif., (May 10, 2010) – On Saturday, May 22, from 7 p.m. to midnight, the San Diego House of Blues is celebrating its 5th anniversary with a benefit gala to raise funds for A Reason to Survive (ARTS).

A San Diego-based nonprofit, ARTS is dedicated to healing, inspiring and empowering youth ages 3 to 22 who face some of life's greatest challenges. Through innovative arts-based programs, ARTS gives kids a chance to experience the creative process, helping them to cope with issues such as homelessness, domestic violence, illness, foster care, incarceration, bereavement and loss or absence of a parent. Through their exposure to the arts, children are able to heal and cope with difficult situations, possibly moving on to pursue an education or a career in a creative field. Ninety-five percent of these children and youth are from minority and low-income families.

"Youth have many positive choices to change the course of their lives – sports, school, etc. We are here to serve those creative kids who are artistically, musically, and literarily inclined," says ARTS executive director, Matt D'Arrigo. "We are really excited about the House of Blues event, which will help us raise much needed funds to support these important arts programs at a time when San Diego's kids need help the most."

One such example is the ARTS Livicated Youth Ensemble – the ARTS "house band," comprised of local youth who have worked with professional musicians at the Pat D'Arrigo ARTS Center in Point Loma. LYE first performed at a private engagement last month with Tony Award winning performer Christopher Hoff, and was so well-received they were invited to headline the May celebration at House of Blues.

House of Blues will host the May 22 fundraiser as part of their 5th Anniversary celebration and will feature:

- Southern-style cuisine and hosted bar
- Live entertainment by the ARTS Livicated Youth Ensemble, Dave Booda, and other musical guests
- Silent and live auctions, including:
 - Dinner and a show for two at House of Blues San Diego and a 2-night stay in a

Waterview Room at the Courtyard Marriott San Diego

- Dinner and 1-night stay at Pala Casino Spa Resort
- Trip to New York to see Memphis on Broadway
- Trip to Las Vegas to see Blue Man group
- Two trips to Puerto Vallarta
- Various works of art, created by ARTS youth

Guests will also enjoy watching – and even participating with – ARTS kids creating artwork throughout the evening, some of which will be auctioned during the event.

Tickets and corporate sponsorship opportunities are now available and can be purchased online at www.AReasonToSurvive.org, or call Jackie Hwang at 619.297.2787 ext. 2004. Tickets are available for \$125 each, or \$1125 for 10, and a portion is tax deductible. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, contact Arathi Menon at 619.297.2787 ext. 2002.

About A Reason to Survive (ARTS)

Founded in 2001 by artist Matt D'Arrigo, ARTS is a local non-profit organization dedicated to healing, inspiring, and empowering children facing life challenges by providing innovative arts-based programs, education and employment opportunities. ARTS provides visual, performing, and literary arts programs to thousands of youth annually at the Pat D'Arrigo ARTS Center, located at the NTC Promenade in Point Loma. This 7,000 square foot creative space includes visual and ceramic arts studios, a dance studio, music room, digital media room, and art gallery. ARTS also provides Community Outreach Programs to children at various partner sites such as hospitals, residential treatment facilities, shelters, rehabilitation centers, community groups, schools, and more. For more information, please call 619.297-ARTS(2787) or visit www.AReasonToSurvive.org

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