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SAINT JOSEPH BALLET CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

SANTA ANA, California (October 5, 2008) – Saint Joseph Ballet, a well-known arts based non-profit, celebrated 25 years of providing hope and opportunity through dance, academic and family programs at an event entitled *Now. Then. Anew.* on October 4, 2008.

With 174 people in attendance, the black-tie optional event was at-capacity and netted approximately \$240,000.00, going above the organization's goals, all proceeds benefiting Saint Joseph Ballet's mission. Highlights from the evening included Saint Joseph Ballet's Founder, Beth Burns' moving speech chronicling the roots of the organization, which led into an in-depth video documentary on the non-profit's stunning 25-year track record. Executive and Artistic Director, Melanie Ríos Glaser introduced the student performance of the powerful, *What Is Too Strong For Breaking*, choreographed by the internationally recognized Mark Haim. The evening was capped off by the event's chair, Yvonne Marie Jordan, Board Member and long-time supporter of Saint Joseph Ballet, hosting an excitement-inducing opportunity drawing for a one-of-a-kind watercolor created exclusively for Saint Joseph Ballet by artist, Raul Colón as well as a \$1,000.00 gift certificate to South Coast Plaza. Brenda Deeley was the lucky winner of the Colón artwork and Anthony Seiffert the lucky recipient of the shopping spree.

During the past quarter-century, approximately 62,000 Orange County youth have been positively impacted by the mission of Saint Joseph Ballet; empowering low-income youth from diverse neighborhoods to strengthen self-esteem, self-discipline and a sense of accomplishment through dance, academic and family programs. Since its inception in a school auditorium in 1983, Saint Joseph Ballet has seen unparalleled results and monumental growth. In the past decade, nearly 100% of Saint Joseph Ballet's students have gone on to college in a population that averages only 30% nation-wide. According to one Saint Joseph Ballet graduate, "Everyday I was reminded of how much the world had to offer me. As the doors of Saint Joseph Ballet opened to me and every other dancer, I knew that the doors of the world were also approachable." The key to the organization's success is a long-term investment in each child (an average of 8 years for the class of 2008) and a multi-pronged approach which ties dance to free academic support and family services.

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Members of the Media may request interviews with a Saint Joseph Ballet student, Executive/Artistic Director, Melanie Ríos Glaser or the event Chair, Yvonne Jordan by contacting Payal Kumar at 714-541-8314 Ext. 19 or Payal@SaintJosephBallet.org. High resolution images from the event are available by request.