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**ACM LIFTING LIVES ANNOUNCES
FALL 2009 BENEFICIARIES**

Organization More Than Triples Reach in 2009, Impacting 15 Deserving Programs Nationally

ENCINO, CA (December 3, 2009) – **ACM Lifting Lives™** the Academy of Country Music’s philanthropic arm, announced its fall beneficiaries today, including new grants for **L.A. Children’s Hospital Music Therapy Program, Mr. Holland’s Opus** and **Soldier’s Angels**.

As part of the rebranding of ACM Lifting Lives earlier this year, the organization upped timing for its annual grant cycles resulting in two cycles in 2009 instead of just one. With this second round of grants, Lifting Lives increased funding to approximately \$230,000 overall and expanded funding to reach 15 programs in total.

ACM Lifting Lives is dedicated to improving lives through the power of music, with grants funding programs that promote education and healing through the power of music.

“The grant cycle is at the heart of our mission,” said Erin Spahn, Director of ACM Lifting Lives. “Throughout the country, we’re funding programs that provide stipends for new music teachers, instruments for students and men and women in the armed forces, and music therapy in after-school programs and in health care facilities. Through these programs, we’re helping improve lives through music with a broad and diverse reach.”

Programs funded during the inaugural ACM Lifting Lives grant cycle include:

- **The Art of Elysium** in Los Angeles, CA – received funding for “Musical Expressions Program,” providing music kits to hospitalized children
- **Holston Home** in Middle Tennessee – received funding to expand their music education program, “Music Heals Hurt,” including hiring part-time piano and guitar teachers
- **Los Angeles Children’s Hospital Music Therapy Program** in Los Angeles, CA – received funding for personnel support for music therapists in the hospital’s Artists Program, of which services are offered free to patients and their families
- **Mr. Holland’s Opus** a national organization – received funding for purchase and repair of instruments for underserved school or after-school programs
- **Music National Service Initiative** in Oakland, CA and the Bay Area – received funding for the “Bay Area MusicianCorps” which gives stipends to young adults to teach in at-risk schools
- **Musicians On Call** in Nashville, TN and also a national organization – received funding to continue music therapy through artist visits and live performances brought to the bedsides of healthcare patients

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- **Peace thru Music** in Ventura, CA – received funding for purchase and repair of instruments for children from financially challenged backgrounds
- **Soldier’s Angels** a national organization – received funding to fill requests from deployed and wounded members of the Armed Forces needing musical instruments
- **Songs for Kids** in Atlanta, GA and Los Angeles, CA – received funding for live music performances in hospitals, specifically the “Kids Rock!” program at Children’s Hospital LA and at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, GA
- **Vanderbilt Kennedy Center’s Williams Syndrome Music Camp** in Nashville, TN – received scholarships for children and funding for camp that has a dual purpose of studying Williams Syndrome and providing music therapy to kids in the form of performance and education
- **Vanderbilt Music Therapy Program** in Nashville, TN – received funding for a full time music therapist for trauma patients, a position made possible by ACM Lifting Lives’ funding
- **W.O. Smith Nashville Community Music School** in Nashville, TN – received funding for music education to underprivileged children, providing room and board expenses for students at Summer Music Camp

For information on program guidelines and how to submit for the 2010 grant cycle, please visit www.acmliftinglives.org.

The Academy of Country Music unveiled the new name, ACM Lifting Lives, at the 44th ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS in April, with a special performance by Trace Adkins of “Til The Last Shot’s Fired” which he performed with the West Point Glee Club in support of Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). WWP was selected by Lifting Lives to benefit from the special show moment. Adkins’ live performance was immediately made available for download at iTunes with all proceeds going to the WWP, netting the organization approximately \$100,000 in total.

About the Academy of Country Music

Founded in 1964, the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC** is an artist and industry-driven organization, providing the financial resources to ensure the on-going philanthropic work of **ACM Lifting Lives**, the charitable arm of the Academy which works to improve lives through music. The Academy is comprised of more than 3,800 professional members and more than 180,000 associate members and is headquartered in Encino, Calif. For more information, log onto www.acmliftinglives.org or www.acmcountry.com.

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