

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For more information contact:

Cheryl Scutt, Executive Director, 615-794-1150 ext. 34 or 615-613-2501 (cell)

February 9, 2008

For immediate release

### **Big Santa donates \$5,500 in memory of Rita Rose**

FRANKLIN, Tenn. – Big Santa Productions recently presented a \$5,500 gift to Saddle Up! in memory of the late Rita Rose.

Big Santa started several years ago when a group of friends gathered for a Christmas party and decided to also make the event a fundraiser that would benefit a nonprofit. Donations are taken at the door for the nonprofit that is chosen each year.

The event grew so large over time that for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary party in 2007, it required The Cannery in Nashville to accommodate all the guests. The Big Santa group also became a nonprofit organization.

The late Ms. Rose was a friend to many members of the Big Santa group and mother to Tony Rose Jr., one of the party's hosts. After two years of bravely battling cancer, she passed away on July 11, 2007.

Big Santa's Board of Directors approached the Rose family about donating proceeds from the 2007 party in loving memory of Ms. Rose. The Rose family chose Saddle Up! because the program integrates horses and children, two of Ms. Rose's passions in life.

Saddle Up! is the region's oldest and largest recreational therapeutic riding program, and the only one exclusively serving children. The program serves 130 children and youth, ages 4 through 18, with documented disabilities through more than 4,200 lessons annually. Saddle Up! is also one of only three programs in Tennessee to earn Premier Accredited Center status from the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA), the national organization that sets the standards for quality and safety for more than 700 programs. For more information about Saddle Up! please call 615-794-1150 or visit the website, [www.saddleupnashville.org](http://www.saddleupnashville.org).