



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Niles Home Celebrates 125 Years at “A Night on the Nile” Gala

Kansas City, MO, November 10, 2008 – More than 300 guests celebrated with the Niles Home for Children for its 125 years of caring for children and families in the community during “A Night on the Nile” Gala held October 25, 2008 at the Grand Ballroom at the Kansas City Convention Center. The event featured silent and live auctions, buffet dinner, and dancing and live music provided by Kansas City Lights Jazz Combo and Karma.

During a Patrons’ Party awards were presented to the Rev. Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield, who recently retired after 35 years as senior pastor of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, and Michael S. Shaughnessy, chairman emeritus of the Niles board of directors. Rev. Hartsfield received the Samuel Eason Advocacy Award for his years of service to Kansas City as a proponent of civic participation and a champion for youth. Mr. Shaughnessy, who recently moved to Florida where he works for MetLife, received the Niles Legacy Award for his commitment to Kansas City’s most vulnerable children and his dedicated service to Niles Home for Children.

Retired Missouri State Sen. Mary Groves Bland and her son, Missouri State Rep. Craig Bland, served as the honorary co-chairs for the event.

Each year, Niles serves approximately 150 children ages 6 to 17 years old from throughout Missouri and eastern Kansas. Many of the children have experienced trauma from the effects of abuse, neglect or abandonment. The children receive individual and group therapy and educational services

through three primary programs -- residential treatment, day treatment/alternative education, and adolescent substance abuse prevention and treatment.

For more information on the awards or the gala event, call Roxane Johnson at 816-241-3448.

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Rev. Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield gives acceptance remarks after being presented the Samuel Eason Advocacy Award.



Michael S. Shaughnessy received the Niles Legacy Award from Chandra Matthews of Niles, and President & CEO Valerie Nicholson-Watson.



Gala Honorary Co-Chairs Retired Missouri State Sen. Mary Groves Bland and her son, Missouri State Rep. Craig Bland.