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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Businesses and Individuals Exemplify True Meaning of Season at Martha O'Bryan Center

NASHVILLE, Tenn., December 15, 2006 -- What do several local Nashville businesses, a Tennessee Titan linebacker, and countless volunteers all have in common? Because of their extreme generosity this holiday season, many lives are being brightened at East Nashville's Martha O'Bryan Center.

On December 19, more than 90 volunteers from Genesco Inc. will be at Martha O'Bryan Center fitting approximately 300 children with new shoes, socks, hats, and t-shirts for Christmas through Genesco's *Cold Feet, Warm Shoes*, a traditional event for the company. Tennessee Titans linebacker David Thornton is partnering with Genesco, assisting with the fitting, visiting with children and spreading holiday cheer.

"It is important to us that we give back to the community where we work and live," said Hal N. Pennington, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Genesco, Inc. Of Thornton's partnership with Genesco, Pennington added, "David's contribution to the *Cold Feet, Warm Shoes* is tremendous.

We are fortunate to have such an outstanding person teaming up with us as we give back to the community."

Other holiday events at Martha O'Bryan Center include:

- On December 13, Citadel Broadcasting employees hosting a Christmas party and delivering gifts and food they purchased for Martha O'Bryan's Early Learning Center. An enthusiastic bus load of volunteers arrived at the Center and unloaded two trucks full of gifts for the children and sent them each home with a bag full of child-friendly food.
- On December 15, Martha O'Bryan Center's annual *Toy Store*. Through this program, parents pay \$15 per child or can do community service to earn vouchers for shopping for their children's holiday gifts. Gifts for *Toy Store* are provided

through generous donations from individuals throughout the city, employees of Nashville businesses, and members of Middle Tennessee Presbyterian (USA) Churches (the Center is a covenant mission of the Middle Tennessee Presbytery). Volunteers are also on-hand setting up and acting as personal shoppers with parents.

- On December 21, VF Imagewear employees hosting a party for Martha O'Bryan Center's Y-REEL youth. In addition to providing free pizza and soft drinks, VFI employees will act as personal shoppers, assisting youth in picking holiday gifts for two people of their choice through the Center's *More Store*. The youth participate in community service to earn vouchers toward the purchase of gifts.

- Andee Johnson, a Harpeth Hall sophomore and former *Toy Store* chair, is organizing a gift collection for each of the senior citizens served by Martha O'Bryan Center. Those gifts will be collected and delivered to each senior's door in time for Christmas.

Marsha Edwards, president and chief executive officer of Martha O'Bryan Center, expressed appreciation for all that is done for the Center's service group during the holiday season. "This is a time of genuine joy and gratitude passing back and forth from person-to-person, givers and receivers of gifts alike. Every year, it is amazing to behold."

Founded in 1894, the Martha O'Bryan Center provides integrated services that support families living in poverty as they work to achieve greater self-sufficiency through sustained employment and education. The Center primarily serves the residents of East Nashville area and is located in the James A. Cayce Homes public housing development.

If you would also like to volunteer at Martha O'Bryan Center, please contact Judy Gaither at 254-1791 x114. For more information please visit www.marthaobryan.org.

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