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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROTARY GINGERBREAD HOUSE EXTRAVAGANZA 2009:

More than half a million dollars has been raised for charity in the past six years!

Jacksonville, Fla., November 24, 2009 - The Gingerbread House Extravaganza, organized by the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of North Jacksonville and Rotaract Club of Florida's First Coast opens to the public on November 28 through to December 23 (see times listed below) at the Jacksonville Historical Society (formerly the Old St. Andrews Episcopal Church) at 317 Phillip A. Randolph Blvd. Over half a million dollars has been raised for more than 30 charities in the past six years!

This annual event features a variety of large gingerbread creations made of 75% edible materials displayed in a village atmosphere in the Historic Society's old church. Over 40 gingerbread structures are expected to be submitted for competition. Gingerbread houses displayed are built by local individuals and organizations, as well as area country club chefs, restaurants, bakeries, architects and various non-profits and area schools.

Winners of the competition will be awarded \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place and \$500 for third place. A "People's Choice Award" will be announced at the end of the show when ballots cast by the public are tallied. This year's Gingerbread Judges include: Michael Bump, Pastry Chef, Restaurant Orsay; Cinda Sherman, Publisher, Arbus Magazine; and Hope McMath, Director, Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

Among the charities that will receive funds raised from the event include the Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville, HabiJax and the Jacksonville Historical Society. For additional information or to be a sponsor, please visit: www.rotarycharity.org.

The 2009 Gingerbread House Extravaganza details include:

Date: November 28 - December 22, 2009

Location:

Jacksonville Historical Society
317 A. Phillip Randolph Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Exhibit Hours:

OPENING DAY - Saturday, November 28: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Open: Wednesday – Saturday only: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Also Open December 21 and 22: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Open on Tuesdays by appointment only.

Admission:

Adults - \$5.00 donation
Children (3 - 16) - \$3.00 donation
Infants – Free
Special – \$10.00 *Polio Plus Tickets* (to help Rotary and the World Health Organization eradicate polio globally) includes \$5.00 donated to Polio Plus.