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Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Celebrates 25 Years

Anniversary Marks End of Building Renovation Campaign Totaling \$1.6 Million

Stone Mountain GA – (23 September 2011) – Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), a non-profit organization providing over \$9 million annually in durable medical equipment and supplies to the disabled community, unveiled today its newly renovated facilities in Stone Mountain, Georgia. September marks the 25th anniversary of the organization as well as the end of its successful Building Renovation Capital Campaign which raised over \$1.6 million despite a faltering global economy.

“The success of the campaign is a wonderful validation of FODAC’s leadership and reflects strong community support for the organization’s goals and objectives,” said Chris Brand, president and executive director of FODAC. “Through the generous support of our donors and partners, FODAC has been able to completely renovate its facilities, enabling us to greatly enhance our current programs and position ourselves as national leaders in improving the lives of the disabled.”

In 2009, FODAC received from DeKalb County a Community Development Block Grant, which included some stimulus funds, totaling \$536,000. The organization’s board of directors then decided to use the grant funds as seed money for an ambitious capital campaign, the goal of which was to renovate and upgrade the FODAC facilities. FODAC’s level of service had far outgrown the facilities and a complete renovation was necessary to sustain continued growth.

Over the next two years, FODAC’s management and board met with community leaders, corporate sponsors and individual donors to present its vision for the future. By the end of 2010, FODAC had raised \$1.6 million, an amazing accomplishment in the midst of what many economists have termed the worst financial crisis since The Great Depression.

“We always believed we could raise the funds,” stated Rusty McKellar, director of land development, Pattillo Construction, and chair, FODAC development committee. “We

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found that people believed in FODAC's mission of improving the lives of the disabled by helping them become more independent, and when they believed, the money just came."

The extensive remodeling project began in June 2010 and is scheduled for completion in September 2011. The lobby, hallways and doorways were widened to more easily accommodate wheelchairs. Restrooms, breakrooms and offices were all renovated and made more accessible. The donation center was expanded and new loading docks were cut in. A wet room was added that included the technology to professionally clean the medical equipment. A wheelchair training room was constructed along with a children's equipment matching area, the latter decorated with a bright zoo-themed mural. The Thrift Store was also renovated and expanded to 11,000 square feet to include a new, more efficient sorting area and to accommodate more volunteers.

On September 22, FODAC celebrated its new facilities with a 25th anniversary party, attended by major donors and sponsors along with key government officials like Pat Wheeler, mayor of Stone Mountain, and Chris Morris, director of community development, DeKalb County. Guests were treated to refreshments along with a guided tour of the new facilities.

About FODAC

FODAC helps children, adults and seniors with disabilities regain their mobility, independence and quality of life. The non-profit organization provides more than \$9 million annually in refurbished home medical equipment (HME) and home modifications in Georgia and across the United States, all at little or no cost to the recipients. A pioneer in re-use, FODAC keeps 185 tons of materials out of landfills each year by refurbishing and reissuing over 300 HME items every month, and is recognized nationally for best practices. Funding comes from grants, private foundations, corporations and individuals.

The organization was started by volunteers who began refurbishing and giving away wheelchairs to needy Atlantans and was officially incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 1986. Since then, the organization has grown to include a staff of 22 and an average of 34 volunteers per week, and an annual budget of \$1 million. Chris Brand serves as president and executive director. To date, FODAC has provided clients with over \$60 million in medical equipment including over 25,000 wheelchairs. The organization is supported through grants and corporate and private donations. FODAC is headquartered at 4900 Lewis Road, Stone Mountain, Ga., 30083. For more information, visit www.fodac.org or call 770.491.9014.

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