



For Immediate release
February 8, 2008

For more information contact:
Jen Band 704-661-7142

Playing for Others Ramps Up Activities In Preparation for Arts Festival Weekend March 28 & 29

PFO Teen Volunteers

*Abby Moore
Addy Allred
Allison Whitmeyer
Amanda Roberge
Arielle Gross
Becca Moore
Briann Messick
Burke Spivey
Camille Gross
Caroline Reid
Carrie Holt
Charlie Holt
Christian Bufford
Courtney Hudson
Daniel Morrice
Dylan Moore
Emily Hudson
Erika Rasile
Hayden Rockecharlie
Heidi Woodward
Isaac Josephthal
Izzy Francke
Jack Eiselt
James Kennedy
Jamie Marsicano
Joe Ehrman-Dupre
John Crum
Julia Gledhill
Julianna Sosa
Jura Davis
Kaitlin Wightman-Ausman
Kate Schwab
Kylie Nall
Lee Landess
Madeline Medlin
Matt Carlson
Mattie Kearse
Meghan Neal
Michael Barnett
Morgan Grubbs
Nicole Ramsey
Noah Medlin
Rachel Tate
Savannah Devore
Savannah Jillani
Stephen Friedrich*

Take forty-seven teens, add creativity and a desire to transform the world and you get an avalanche of events designed to help them reach their goal. Playing for Others (PFO) is an organization of young people determined to create change for a local non-profit that directly impacts children. The program teaches young people to take what they're passionate about and use it to benefit the greater good.

That passion is heavily on display over the next few weeks in a series of activities leading up to an Arts Festival Weekend slated for March 28th & 29th at the Neighborhood Theatre. Each is designed to raise awareness of PFO and its 2008 season goal: a donation of \$25,000 to partner organization the Down Syndrome Association of Charlotte to fund an endowment for their summer camp.

The crew of teenagers has been meeting since September. Each participant has: adopted a buddy with Down syndrome and shared themed activities with them; served on a committee to promote the organization and related events; raised funds by asking family, friends and businesses to become their partner in success; and helped produce a show for which a portion of the ticket sales go to the non-profit.

The show – ***A Year With Frog and Toad*** – is a delightful new musical based on the award-winning books by Arnold Lobel. The story, set to a jazzy soundtrack, follows Frog and Toad on a yearlong adventure that strengthens and deepens their unlikely friendship.

Three performances enliven Neighborhood Theatre, each with added festivities. On Friday, March 28th, the celebration kicks off at 6:30 with a Silent Auction and Opening Reception, followed by the performance at 7:30PM and a concert by Volatile Baby at 10PM. Papparazzi are sure to attend the Saturday matinee, where the DSAC buddies strut the red carpet and take in a 2:30 show. Saturday's finale includes a 6:30 pre-show reception and wraps up with a 9PM check presentation to the Down Syndrome Association. Tickets and information are available at: **www.playingforothers.org**

The weeks leading up to the performance weekend present additional opportunities to see these teens in action. On Saturday, March 15th, PFO participants infiltrate Public Library branches across the county and give free readings of the book between 10-11:30AM. The following Saturday, March 22nd, Freedom Park plays host to the public's first glimpse of scenes and songs beginning at 11AM and concluding at 2PM.

All events are open to the public. Donations are still gladly being accepted and corporate sponsorship opportunities are available.

#####

Mission: To create change by kids, for others, with the community, through a passionate journey.

