

## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2008

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Birmingham Children's Theatre and The Southern Women's Committee of Fifty Join Together to Support the BIRTHDAY WISH for Jefferson and Shelby Counties Foster Parent Association by providing a FREE performance of Birmingham Children's Theatre's *RAPUNZEL* on Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. Over 250 foster parents, and their children were in attendance at Birmingham Children's Theatre! It was a day of excitement and education for all involved, as many were attending a live theater performance for the first time as a family.

The Southern Women's Committee of Fifty has long been linked with participating in cultural, charitable and educational development for Jefferson and Shelby Counties. Three years ago this organization founded The BIRTHDAY WISH program to make sure that foster children in Jefferson and Shelby Counties are made to feel special on their birthday. Both organizations found through their work that foster children and their families are a special group of people that often get less support from the community than other groups in need.

Birmingham Children's Theatre also has a 61 year history of supporting the community by exposing thousands and thousands of children from all walks of life to live, educational theatre. Each group involved in this project felt that exposure to the arts through a performance at BCT would be an educational and entertaining experience not only for the foster children in the community, but for their parents and siblings as well. Exposure to theater and other art forms at an early age is a vital part of development, and the many benefits to early and consistent exposure to the arts have been well documented.

The Birmingham Children's Theatre and The Southern Women's Committee of Fifty felt that by working together to support the BIRTHDAY WISH and to provide a FREE showing of Birmingham Children's Theatre's presentation of *\*Rapunzel\** for the foster families of Jefferson and Shelby Counties would make a difference in the lives of these children and their families. It's important for them to see others reaching out to them to make them feel important. What better way to bring a smile to a child?

Photographs from the performance are attached.