



John Rich Receives First-Ever *Randy Owen Angels Among Us* Award During Country Cares for St. Jude Kids® Seminar

Annual event also features visits from artists including Martina McBride, Kix Brooks, Eli Young Band, Lauren Alaina and nearly 800 members of the radio industry

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (Jan. 15, 2012) – Country Music Hall of Famer and Alabama front man Randy Owen presented country star John Rich with the first-ever *Randy Owen Angels Among Us Award* during the annual songwriter's dinner at the Country Cares for St. Jude Kids® radio seminar last night. The award recognizes a member of the country music industry who demonstrates an immeasurable commitment and dedication to kids battling cancer and other deadly diseases at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®.

Last year, Rich drew national attention to the top-ranked children's cancer research hospital when he won the NBC hit show the *Celebrity Apprentice*. Rich competed on the show on behalf of St. Jude and helped raise more than \$1.4 million for the organization.

"St. Jude holds a very special place in my heart," said Rich. "It's like no other place and I'm just so honored to help raise awareness for this organization and to receive the first-ever *Angels Among Us Award* from Randy."

Owen started Country Cares for St. Jude Kids in 1989 when he appealed to his fellow country music artists, radio stations and loyal country music listeners to help support the lifesaving mission of St. Jude. Since it began, Country Cares has raised more than \$400 million for St. Jude.

"This past year John really embodied what Country Cares for St. Jude Kids is all about," said Owen. "It's really unbelievable to look back over the past 23 years and see what the country music industry has helped us accomplish for St. Jude. This award is a way for us to say thank you to select members of the industry for their continued commitment and support."

Some of the music industry's most established and new artists also participated in the seminar including Lauren Alaina, Brent Anderson, Katie Armiger, Kelleigh Bannen, Lee Brice, Kix Brooks, Burns and Poe, Due West, Tim Dugger, Margaret Durante, Eden's Edge, Eli Young Band, Tyler Farr, Andy Gibson, J.T. Hodges, The Farm, Steve Holy, Randy Houser, Jana Kramer, Love and Theft, Dustin Lynch, Martina McBride, Kip Moore, Lost Trailers, Jon Pardi, Canaan Smith, Thomas Rhett, David St. Romain, Glen Templeton, Josh Thompson, Darren Warren and James Wesley.

In addition to the artists, the seminar played host to nearly 800 radio and music industry professionals who work together to execute annual radiothon fundraisers for St. Jude. Throughout the weekend guests got to hear inspiring stories of hope from St. Jude patients and

share tips and tricks during interactive breakout sessions about how to create a winning radiothon. This is a particularly special year for the event as St. Jude is celebrating its 50th anniversary of finding cures and saving children.

To learn more about Country Cares for St. Jude Kids visit www.countrycares.org.

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About St. Jude Children's Research Hospital:

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering research and treatment of children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. The hospital's research has helped push overall survival rates for childhood cancer from less than 20 percent when the institution opened to almost 80 percent today. It is the first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center devoted solely to children, and no family ever pays St. Jude for care. For more information, go to www.stjude.org and follow St. Jude on www.facebook.com/stjude and www.twitter.com/stjude.

Contacts:

Sarah Newman
ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
901-336-2203 (mobile)
Sarah.Newman@stjude.org