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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Vandivort Center Theatre & Buzbee Dental present December 9th Performance of "Annie" to benefit "The Tooth Truck"

A benefit performance of the award-winning musical "Annie" will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9 at the Vandivort Center Theatre in Springfield. Thanks to the generosity of presenting sponsors the Vandivort Center Theatre and Buzbee Dental, the event will benefit the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (also known as "The Tooth Truck").

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$25 for children, with 100% of the ticket price benefiting the programs of the Tooth Truck. Each ticket includes free refreshments and a special gift bag. Advance tickets may be purchased by calling 417.875.3505. The Vandivort Center Theatre seats a maximum of 140 people and all tickets for the benefit performance will be reserved seating.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a primarily school-based mobile dental clinic for underserved children in the Springfield area who have no access to dental treatment. Providing services since July 2002, the program has helped over 7,000 children with 21,000 dental appointments valued at \$4.4 million. The Tooth Truck's philosophy is to find the children most in need and complete 100% of each child's treatment plan. Throughout the process, each child receives extensive prevention and hygiene education and the family is encouraged to find a permanent dental home. Most of the Tooth Truck kids have never been to a dentist and having the opportunity to relieve pain and/or improve their healthy smiles serves as a huge boost to each child's self esteem. The Tooth Truck has a dedicated staff of 5 and dozens of volunteers who are committed to the health and well-being of each patient. www.toothtruck.org

Annie is a musical based upon the popular Harold Gray comic strip Little Orphan Annie, with music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin, and the book by Thomas Meehan. One of the most well-attended shows in Springfield theatre history, the Tony Award winning musical ran for nearly six years on Broadway, spawned numerous productions in many countries, as well as national tours. The musical's songs "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard-Knock Life" are its most popular pieces.

The Vandivort Center Theatre, located on the 4th Floor at 305 E. Walnut St. in Springfield is

pleased to contribute the venue for this benefit performance. Vandivort Center Theatre is located in a theatre space built by the Masons in 1906. Now in its 14th season, the Vandivort Center Theatre produces a variety of stage productions year round. The Vandivort Center Theatre is dedicated to the production of works that can be re-energized through a contemporary view and through an intimate staging while using outstanding directors and local actors and guest professionals throughout the season. The theatre has grown into two performance spaces with the addition of Vandivort 2nd Stage located at 440 S. Campbell Ave. which opened in September. Louis H. Schaeffer serves as the Executive Producer of Vandivort Center Theatre. The theatre is now operating as a Missouri nonprofit organization: Springfield Contemporary Theatre, Inc. (www.vctheatre.com)

Buzbee Dental, a general family practice, is honored to have the opportunity to underwrite this charity performance of Annie with proceeds benefiting the Tooth Truck. Serving the Springfield community for over 30 years, Buzbee Dental offers a multidisciplinary approach to dentistry providing preventive and cosmetic dental care using advanced technology. The four Buzbee doctors, Gary, Roger, Todd and Tyler, and their team offer a comprehensive dental experience treating patients like guests with hospitality, education and service. www.buzbeedental.com

