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For more information:

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**MEDIA ALERT –
WINNERS OF THE 15TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to announce the winners of the 15th ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF on O’Neal Plaza in historic Downtown Douglasville, on Saturday, October 22nd. This year, the popular annual fundraiser was attended by 3,000 participants, matching last year’s record-breaking attendance. The event was held in conjunction with the Rogue Runners Moonlight Run and following many events throughout the day in the second annual “Octoberfest” supported by the City. The Chili Cook Off featured a performance by a popular bluegrass band, Nancy Creek.

Our celebrity judges – Ronnie Ackerman, Jerry Frost, Josh Gipson, Bob Smith and Michael Tuttle – deliberated with great care while judging which of the 25 chili cookers would be awarded the coveted “**Best Tasting**” prize. This year’s award was presented to a Chili Cook Off newcomer, **Team Spectra**, for its spicy offering. Another newcomer Master Tech Auto Repair was first runner up in Best Tasting and mayoral candidate Ron Wilson was second runner up. CAC Board members and Gallery Committee stalwarts Jerry Leath, Linda Britt and Mack Porter awarded “**Best Decorated Booth**” to long-time participant **Gold’s Gym** with frequent past winner Douglas County Coroner Randy Daniel as first runner up and Brighton Academy as second in this competitive category. In many ways, the “**Most Sold**” award represents the people’s choice; and **Douglas County Coroner Randy Daniel** won the prize again this year for his delicious and popular chili with another regular prize-winner County Commission Chair Tom Worthan in second place and Janice Thompson State Farm Insurance Company taking third.

The Children’s **Halloween Costume Contest** proved more popular than ever, and our panel of judges – CAC Board and Arts Education Committee members -- June Keen, Tamara Morgan, Sheila Rivera and Douglas County Schools Associate Superintendent Suveess Ricks – faced tough decisions in awarding prizes for most creative costuming, but every child was a winner at the 2010 Chili Cookoff! **Lexie Caldwell**, daughter of Brandwin and Amy Caldwell, was awarded first place for her witch’s costume in the Kindergarten and younger category; **Baylor and Ben Rollins**, sons of Jake and Paige Rollins, won in the younger and older elementary school categories; and **Jenna Miller**, daughter of Denise Overfield and Terry Miller, took the prize in the middle school and older group for her Harpo Marx costume, complete with bicycle horn.

The **4-H** booth serving hot dogs, cider, desserts and soft drinks earned funds in support of its programs and other youth projects coordinated by the Douglas County Cooperative Extension Office. The overall proceeds from this sold-out family fun event benefit the Cultural Arts Council and its educational outreach programming including arts in afterschool initiative, artists in our schools program, and spring and summer art camps; the monthly exhibition program at the Cultural arts Center; and the CAC’s popular free spring and fall concerts series, also presented on O’Neal Plaza in Douglasville’s historic downtown.

THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

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