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Louis Armstrong Center's Music for AIR Is Awarded J&J/SAH Grant

February 11, 2008 -- Johnson & Johnson, in partnership with the Society for Arts in Healthcare, has named Beth Israel Medical Center's Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine as a recipient of a three-year grant to help support its Music for AIR (Advances in Respiration).

Highly coveted, the 2007-2008 grants to eight organizations total \$172,840, of which \$75,000 has been awarded to the Louis Armstrong Center. Competition for the award was stiff, with more than 130 proposals for using art to help bridge the gap between illness and health.

At The Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine, operating in conjunction with Beth Israel's Center for Cardiac & Pulmonary Health and replicated at three local nursing homes, Music for AIR will address associated healthcare needs of 200 underserved and elderly.

"Lung disease is among the leading causes of disability in the United States. Research on the effect of arts therapies in respiration is minimal, but pilot evidence shows that psychological distress has an impact on physical symptoms and quality of life," said Joanne Loewy, DA, LCAT, Director, Louis Armstrong Center.

"This grant will be critical to providing services while researching the effects of music therapy tailored to enhance physical functioning and quality of life through music-assisted relaxation, singing, and wind instrument playing," said music therapist Ronit Azoulay, MA, MT-BC, LCAT.

Music for AIR will study the specific effects of providing an arts/medicine-based integrative approach to complement standard treatment and will produce published research, training materials for professionals, trainings at conferences, and a music therapy kit for participants and their families to use at home.

Johnson & Johnson is a leading manufacturer of healthcare products and provider of related services. The Society for the Arts in Healthcare is a non-profit international organization based in Washington, DC. Founded in 1991 with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and Johnson & Johnson, SAH is dedicated to promoting the incorporation of the arts as an integral component of healthcare.

For more information about the Louis Armstrong Center's Music for AIR program, please call 212-420-2704 or visit the Center's website: www.musicandmedicine.org.