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CONTACT: Julia Pemberton
julia@ctchallenge.org
203-856-1801

Band Together & Rock Legend John Oates in Concert at the Fairfield Theater Co. Dec. 1st

Proceeds from Sold Out Show Will Benefit the CT Challenge Center for Survivorship

November 22, 2010, Fairfield, CT - When the founders of Band Together (www.bandtogetherct.com) take the stage for their 20th benefit concert, a show to benefit the Connecticut Challenge (CTC) on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at the Fairfield Theater Company, they will be playing for more than a good cause. This time it's personal.

The concert itself has been planned for some time, with rock legend John Oates, of Hall & Oates fame, flying in to headline the show. Founders Jerry Vigorito and Rob Fried are very selective in determining what it takes for a charity to appeal to their philanthropic mission, and the Connecticut Challenge, an organization that empowers cancer survivors by creating and funding survivorship programs certainly fit their bill.

Then two weeks ago, during a planning meeting over a cup of coffee, Jerry Vigorito paused from the discussion of sets and ticket sales to share a personal story. His good friend Michael Patrick, 'Bike Mike', an avid Mountain Bike and Cyclocross racer, was losing his battle with cancer. At that moment, he was in the final stages at hospice.

"Mike," said Jerry, "embodied everything the CTC is about. He lived, he raced, and he fought his cancer while continuing to train and race." Mike had an indomitable spirit. And he kept his supporters updated via blog about how the chemo meds were impacting his grueling training schedule. In one blog post, Mike describes riding his bike during a race while experiencing a petit mal seizure, and attempting to ride it through to the other side. (<http://oweracingmylife.blogspot.com/>). Michael Patrick passed away that afternoon, November 8, 2010.

Jerry explained that in the moment he learned Mike was losing the battle, the appeal of the CTC became crystal clear to him. "What better way to celebrate a life than partnering with the folks at Connecticut Challenge on such life inspiring event." And with that also came a real understanding of the importance of the mission of the CTC, to empower cancer survivors to live longer, happier, healthier lives, by creating and funding survivorship programs, providing credible resources, and building a community of support.

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For the Connecticut Challenge, the partnership with Band Together is an exciting one.

“At the Connecticut Challenge we build a lot of awareness of the work we do for cancer survivors through special events, like our annual bike ride and movie night. We know how strong an attraction music is and we have been trying to figure out for two years how to host a concert,” said Bob Mazzone, the organization’s Executive Director. “When Band Together approached us, it was a natural. They bring the artists and produce a great concert and we promote it and pack the house. It’s another opportunity for us to engage with our loyal supporters and to attract an entirely new audience. It has been a pleasure and a lot of fun working with them and we’re excited for a great night next Wednesday.”

About Band Together

www.Bandtogetherct.com

Band Together CT was founded by Rob Fried and Jerry Vigorito in 2003 with a vision to create community minded musical events that raise your spirits, are fun to attend, and raise funds for worthy causes. **Band Together CT** events have raised over \$600,000 for local charities and families. They have worked with Paul Newman and Meryl Streep to raise millions to protect Connecticut farmland. Awards include Citations of Honor from the US Congress, the Connecticut State Assembly and CT Governor Rell for commitment to helping Connecticut families.

About the Connecticut Challenge

www.ctchallenge.org

The Connecticut Challenge was founded in 2005 to create supportive care resources for cancer survivors in Connecticut and has impacted the lives of 5,000 cancer survivors in our state. The organization currently supports survivorship programs at St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport, Stamford Hospital, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, and Yale Cancer Center. The CT Challenge also provides research grants, sponsors medical symposiums and promotes survivor education and awareness events. Their website is a statewide resource where survivors can find out about the issues they may face and locate programs and services that can help them. The organization raises money primarily through the annual Connecticut Challenge charity bike ride. To date more than \$5 million has been raised to support survivorship programs. To learn more please visit www.ctchallenge.org.

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