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**THE STEVE AZAR ST. CECILIA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$110,000 IN FUNDS RAISED**

***The Delta Soul Celebrity Golf & Charity Event benefits the Arts & Music in the Delta***

Greenville, MS – August 9, 2012 ... Recording artist and Delta native **Steve Azar** is proud to announce the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Delta Soul Celebrity Golf & Charity Event held recently in Greenville, Mississippi to benefit his charity, The Steve Azar St. Cecilia Foundation. Thanks to the tireless efforts of everyone involved and the incredible sponsor support the net proceeds from the event came to \$110,000. The Steve Azar St. Cecilia Foundation (SASCF) is a Mississippi nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable corporation. The focus of the foundation is to assist charitable organizations particularly in the Delta region that benefit sick, disadvantaged and abused children. The foundation also supports the arts within educational and cultural institutions.

Founded in 2006, the SASCF has previously contributed to St. Jude Children's Hospital, Palmer Home for Children, Arkansas Sherriff's Youth Ranches, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, St. Matthew's Church Flood Relief Fund and H.A.N.D.Y (Helping Abused Neglected Dependent Youth).

With this year's Delta Soul event, which was presented by BlueCross BlueShield of MS and The Skin Institute, Azar's primary focus was on promoting and benefiting the arts. The foundation's board of directors approved the beneficiaries to include:

St. Joseph School (Music & Arts program)  
Delta State University/Delta Music Institute  
Greenville Arts Council (Greenville Arts Partnership initiative)  
Delta 180 Degrees - "Blues After School" Program  
10 Washington County student scholarship recipients

A scholarship fund will be set aside to award 10 high school graduates in 2013, one from each high school in Washington County, with an interest in pursuing music or the arts. The high schools applicable are Deer Creek, Greenville Christian, Greenville-Weston High School, Leland High School, O'Bannon High School, Riverside High School, St. Joseph High School, Simmons High School and Washington School. More information on the scholarship program and how to apply will be available soon.

Azar says "I am a graduate of St. Joseph High School and Delta State University and I am thrilled to be able to help and give back to both my alma maters. Also to provide scholarships and support these other worthwhile organizations that are committed to improving the lives of youth through exposure to the arts is exactly what we hoped to accomplish! We could not have done this without the amazing support from our committee and sponsors who believed in this event. We hope that participation next year will be more widespread throughout the Delta and beyond and we will continue to see the positive impact that the Delta Soul can have on us all."

Next year's Delta Soul Celebrity Golf and Charity Event has already been scheduled for June 6-9, 2013. For sponsorship and general information, contact [thedeltasoul@steveazar.com](mailto:thedeltasoul@steveazar.com).

