

JESSIE'S HOUSE TO BENEFIT FROM "LOVE NOTES" GALA

AMHERST – Dec. 18, 2006 -- Jessie's House, Hampshire County's only emergency family shelter, has been chosen as one of 12 local service charities to benefit from the 2007 edition of "Love Notes," the Amherst Club's annual gala. The fundraiser, which has earned a reputation as one of the best parties of the year in Amherst, will be held Feb. 9 at Buckley Recital Hall, Amherst College.

"Area residents who buy a ticket for Love Notes know that they will be helping people in need," said Amherst Club President Carolyn Holstein. "Over the years, Amherst Club benefits have raised more than \$225,000 for the community. It's a great time for a great cause," she said. The Amherst Club, founded in 1983, is a service organization of men and women in area businesses, professions and educational fields.

"We first were chosen as one of the charities supported by Love Notes in 2006," said Jessie's House Program Director Jane Banks. "The money we received then made a real difference to the parents and families who live at Jessie's House. We are thrilled to be among the selected charities again for 2007 and want to thank the Amherst Club members for all the hard work they do on behalf of the community."

Other charities that will receive support from this year's Love Notes include: the Amherst Family Center, the Amherst Survival Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County, Family Outreach of Amherst, Greenfield Community College Foundation's Educational Transitions Program, the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, Reader to Reader, Safe Passage, Tapestry Health and the Youth Action Coalition.

The benefit will feature pianist and Amherst native Stephen Porter, the University of Massachusetts Chamber Choir, Cate Damon and Sam Rush of the New Century Theatre, dancers from Amherst Ballet and the six-piece folk and bluegrass ensemble Wild-Wood. State Sen. Stanley Rosenberg and state Rep. Ellen Story will be emcees and will welcome attendees at the after-show champagne reception.

Love Notes tickets are now available from Amherst Club members, and will be available starting Jan. 1 at Hastings and at Amherst Books or by calling 413-253-5179. Admission is \$20 for the show, or \$35 for the show plus reception.