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TEAM MARTINA RAISES \$25,000 FOR MARTELL BREAST CANCER RESEARCH GRANT Martina McBride Song Inspires Survivors to Make a Difference

New York, NY – (November 1st, 2012) – Fans of country music superstar Martina McBride have raised over \$25,000 to date for cancer research after being inspired by her song, "I'm Gonna Love You Through It," which describes one woman's true story about her breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. Hitting a particular chord during October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, fan club members formed <u>Team Martina</u> and have dedicated over \$25,000 for a grant in Ms. McBride' name at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center in Nashville through the <u>T.J. Martell Foundation</u>.

Martina told The Today Show, "I've got a group called Team Martina which I'm really proud of, and they have a grant for T.J. Martell in my name!"

Says CEO Laura Heatherly, "We are so blessed to have an internationally beloved artist like Martina McBride using her fame to raise funds for cancer research. We hope other celebrities will be inspired to do the same, and we'll welcome them with open arms!"

Some members of Team Martina are cancer survivors who were featured in the video of "I'm Gonna Love You Through It." Team Martina began this fundraiser with the goal of attending the "Soundcheck for a Cure" before one of Martina's shows, now scheduled for January 15 before her Morgantown, WV show. Martina's management agreed to this, and that is how it all began! The fundraising is online through the <u>T.J. Martell Foundation</u>, and will now continue through the end of the year.

For more information, please visit <u>www.tjmartell.org</u>. Join us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Pinterest</u>.

ABOUT THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION

Founded in 1975 by music industry executive, Tony Martell, the T.J. Martell Foundation is the music industry's largest foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding cures for leukemia, cancer & AIDS; it has provided over \$250 million over the past thirty-seven years. The Foundation funds early-stage research projects at eleven excellent institutions across the nation. This research is aimed at developing more effective clinical treatments for patients which otherwise might not be funded. Four of our hospitals are recognized in the 2012 list of Top-Ranked Hospitals for Cancer in U.S. News & World Report.