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**San Juan Capistrano Residents Dave and Renee Ritchie and
Long Time Volunteer Veterinarian Dr. Richard Markell of Ranch
and Coast Equine are Being Honored by The J.F. Shea
Therapeutic Riding Center**

San Juan Capistrano, Calif. — The J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center will present its annual black tie gala on Saturday, June 20 at the Montage Resort & Spa in Laguna Beach. The Michael Lewis Friends of the Disabled Awards will be presented to two honorees that have made meaningful differences in the lives of Shea Center clients; Dave and Renee Ritchie and Dr. Richard Markell, DVM. They are each an outstanding example of community support, voluntarism and philanthropy.

Long time San Juan Capistrano residents Dave and Renee Ritchie are both active community leaders. A longtime Shea Center board member, Dave served as the chairman of the 2005 board. Through his work with Wells Fargo Bank, he has supported the Shea Center's events and provided banking expertise and partnership for Shea Center projects. He is a passionate advocate for community involvement and philanthropy, and as a tribute to his generosity, he has been recognized by UCI and the Boy Scouts. Renee, an avid equestrienne, has served as a member of the City of San Juan Capistrano's open space committee and helped organize and promote open space for equestrians throughout San Juan Capistrano. She is a board member for The Shea Center as well as for J. Serra High School. The Ritchie's involvement with The Shea Center for the past eight years has had a positive impact on the lives of our clients and their families.

In the midst of caring for horses slated for the Olympic Games, World Cup, or any number of international competitions, Dr. Richard Markell, based in Encinitas at his Ranch & Coast Equine Practice, has faithfully cared for The Shea Center's horses every Wednesday afternoon for ten years for free. His care of Shea Center horses has ensured that they are comfortable and able to do their work as therapy horses for the Center's 525 annual clients. Dr. Markell has also enlisted other equine professionals to help when specialty care is needed. He has also served as a faculty advisor for The Shea Center's therapeutic riding instructor programs, taking time away from his practice to educate

instructors about the latest equine issues that relate to the therapeutic riding horse and general horse care.

One of the largest therapeutic riding centers in the country, the J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through therapeutic horse-related programs. The privately funded Shea Center was founded by social worker Fran Joswick in 1978 and currently serves over 525 clients annually with approximately 70 varying disabilities.

For more information call 949-240-8441 or visit the website at www.SheaCenter.org.

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