

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Remy Fund of Community Foundation makes first-ever grants**

The Remy Fund for Pets and Animal Services, a special Field of Interest Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, has announced \$15,000 in grants to three nonprofit organizations. These 2011 grants are the first ever awarded from the Remy Fund, established in 2010 with a \$250,000 gift from local businessman, community volunteer and charity auctioneer Ken Jackson.

Grants will be awarded to:

- **Bama Bully Rescue**, \$5,000 to support the organization's work to find homes for Pit Bulls and other "Bully" breeds that have been abandoned, abused or neglected.
- **Momakat Rescue**, \$5,000 to support spay/neuter surgeries for abused or neglected cats.
- **Spirit of Hope Youth Ranch**, \$5,000 to support animal-assisted therapy programs that involve at-risk and disadvantaged youth working with horses rescued from abuse, neglect or abandonment.

"The Advisory Committee chose these three organizations out of 21 that applied," said James McCrary, Vice President Grants and Evaluation for the Community Foundation, which set up the on-line grant application and in-person review process. "These grants will leverage the positive efforts already going on at these three strong and highly organized agencies."

Members of the committee include Jackson, Beth Franklin; Debra Linton, CPA; James "Murphy" Lynch, DVM; Beverly Virciglio, CPA, and Carol Stewart, Attorney.

"Animals are my passion," said Jackson. "With these grants, the Remy Fund is fulfilling the dream of providing additional support to organizations that are doing such great work with traditional companion animals – cats, dogs and horses."

"The Remy Fund makes it possible for organizations to compete against others with similar goals," McCrary added. "The priorities of the Remy Fund also provide a human benefit by impacting public health and community issues that are important to all our Community Foundation grantmaking."

Stated areas of priority for the Remy Fund are:

- Rescue/shelter programs for traditional companion animals
- Spay/neuter programs
- Animal-assisted therapy programs involving traditional companion animals
- Education and advocacy programs (promoting the humane and dignified treatment of traditional companion animals)
- Service dog programs

The Remy Fund is open for donations from anyone who shares interests in these priority areas through an on-line gift on the Community Foundation website at [www.foundationbirmingham.org](http://www.foundationbirmingham.org) or by check to the Community Foundation, 2100 First Avenue North, Birmingham AL 35203. The next cycle of grants for the Remy Fund opens May 1, 2012, with applications accepted through May 25, 2012.