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The Force Is Strong: Local Star Wars Collector's Group Donates Over 300 Toys to Cancer Services

*Baton Rouge, LA –Dec. 19, 2008—*The Annual Cancer Services Children's Holiday Party was held Sun., Dec. 14, and this year, special visitors were in tow at the Embassy Suites hotel.

To help the hundreds of families involved in the Cancer Services' Candlelighter and Kids Kare programs, Baton Rouge's "Red Stick Rebellion" group brought toys and good cheer to the crowd. The Rebellion is a Star Wars Collector's group for adults in the capital area. They held two toy drives in December at the KB Toys Store at the Tanger Outlet Mall and collected Raising Canes memorabilia for the children this year.

"This party is always a special event for children with cancer, children with a parent or guardian with cancer, and their families," Esther Sachse, Cancer Services' Program Director, said. "To have the Star Wars crew in costume really made it exciting this year! It's going to be difficult to top this in years to come!"

The crew of 11 guys and girls came elaborately dressed as many of the different characters from "the Empire" and surprised the room full of families as they entered to theme music from the popular movie trilogy.

"The crowd just went wild! It was such a thrill to see the huge smiles on these families faces, in spite of all they have been through with a cancer diagnosis," Lisa Eastham, Client Liaison and parent of a Candlelighter, said.

In addition to the Red Stick Rebellion, Cancer Services would also like to thank Embassy Suites Hotel, the Cajun Needler's, National Charity League, Pinky the Clown, Bob Blanchard, Premiere Sound and photographer John Ballance. Cancer Services would also like to give a very big thank you to Butch Peno for his hard work in making this event extra special each year.

For more information about this or any of the other programs at Cancer Services, contact the office at 225.927.2273 or visit www.cancerservices.org

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Since 1959, Cancer Services of Greater Baton Rouge has provided free of charge programs, services, assistance and support to meet the changing medical, financial, educational and emotional needs of cancer patients and their families within a 10-parish area. Parishes served include: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana. For more information, visit the Cancer Services website at www.cancerservices.org.

Our mission is to improve life for those living with cancer.