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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Inaugural Event to Support the Bea Gaddy Family Center**

*November 16 performance features Michael Austin, Ursula Ricks and Mark Davis*

Baltimore, MD (November 6, 2007)—An inaugural entertainment event titled *BeaFest 2007* will occur downtown at The China Room on Friday, November 16th from 8:30pm – 2:00am. Promising to be an evening of jazz, blues, bluegrass and community harmony, proceeds from the event will benefit the Bea Gaddy Family Center as it prepare for its annual Thanksgiving food drive.

*BeaFest 2007* will feature music by Michael Austin and his In This 2gether Band, who have performed jazz in the Baltimore area for the past several years. Mr. Austin is the creator of the event which results result from his strong desire to give to the disadvantaged community. Locked up for half of his life for a crime he did not commit, Michael Austin worked to free his spirit and then himself. Mr. Austin is an accomplished vocalist, songwriter, keyboard, and trumpet player. However, unlike other accomplished musicians, much of is experience was received in prison. Michael focuses on positive thinking and actions. He truly believes that no matter what our differences, in the grand scheme of things we are all in this together.

Also performing will be the Ursula Ricks Blues Project and Smooth Kentucky. Ms. Ricks is well known in the Baltimore blues scene particularly for her soulful and blistering vocals; Smooth Kentucky is equally well known in the eclectic Americana, Country and Bluegrass communities.

**A donation of \$5 with 5 canned goods or \$15 without cans is requested. For more information, contact Michael Austin at (410) 504-4512 or visit [www.inthis2gether.com](http://www.inthis2gether.com).**

Proceeds will support the annual ThanksGaddy Dinner and food drive that provides hot meals and groceries to more than 35,000 disadvantaged Baltimore families and individuals. As is the case

with this annual tradition, the Bea Gaddy Family Center depends upon donations from area individuals and businesses to handle the Thanksgiving influx.