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**AT&T AWARDS \$5,000 TO ADOPT -A-CLASS PROGRAMS  
AT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO**

San Juan Capistrano, CA – November 23, 2009 -- AT&T has contributed \$5,000 to Mission San Juan Capistrano's "Adopt-A-Class" programs. A formal check presentation from John Heffernan, Director of External Affairs for AT&T, will be held on Saturday, December 5th at the annual Christmas at the Mission event.

Spearheaded in 2005, the "Adopt-A-Class" program has allowed under-served California 4th graders the ability to take part in the fun and hands-on learning that only a field trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano can provide. Courtesy of the donations made to the "Adopt-A-Class" program, each student receives a free field trip, docent-guided tour, and an interactive activity book, "Passport Explorer."

"The need for the Adopt-A-Class scholarship program is evident in the increased number of applications and inability for the Mission to fund all scholarship requests since the program's inception. The effectiveness of the program itself is highly apparent as expressed in the letters we receive from both teachers and students who have had the unique opportunity to experience hands-on learning in our unique, historical environment," stated the Mission in its funding application.

"At AT&T, we're committed to supporting programs that provide learning opportunities for young people, especially for those from under-served communities," said John Heffernan, AT&T External Affairs. "That's why we're proud to contribute to the 'Adopt-A-Class' program, helping Mission San Juan Capistrano bring history to life for thousands of area children."

To date, more than 4,010 students and chaperones have been adopted by the Mission since 2005.

For more information or to contribute to the Adopt-A-Class Scholarship Program call Barb Beier, Development Manger at the Mission, at (949)234-1323.

***About Mission San Juan Capistrano:***

*Known as the "Jewel of the Missions," Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.*

*The site itself serves as a living outdoor museum with original buildings constructed by Native Americans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century including the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres' quarters of the South Wing.*

*The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain, and is Orange County's only mission. Every year, over 50,000 students visit the Mission and engage in an inspirational learning experience via the Mission Matters programming, as part of their State required California history studies.*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County's only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and charges admission funds as a means of providing public access.*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Open Daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Good Friday afternoon. Admission is \$9 adults; \$8 seniors (60 years or over); \$5 children (ages 4 to 11); and children ages 3 and under are admitted free. Free audio guide with senior and adult admission. For more information, call (949) 234-1300 or visit [www.missionsjc.com](http://www.missionsjc.com).*

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