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**For Immediate Release
June 11, 2008**

IRSF presents Dr. Daniel Glaze with 2008 Art of Caring Award and Dr. Helen Leonard with 2008 Circle of Angels Research Award

Leading Rett Syndrome Experts Convene with 130 RTT Families for IRSF's 24th Annual Conference

The International Rett Syndrome Foundation hosted its 24th annual conference, entitled "Together, We Are Better" in Chicago at The Fairmont Hotel. The conference featured over 30 sessions including discussions on RTT genetics, augmentative communication, IEP development, and needs of older special needs children. Bill Keegan, RTT parent and author of Closure: The Untold Story of Ground Zero Recovery Mission, delivered the keynote address to over 125 families and care givers.

At its annual general meeting, Dr. Daniel Glaze, M.D., Medical Director of the Blue Bird Circle Rett Center was presented with the foundation's most prestigious honor, "The Art of Caring Award" by Kathryn Kissam, Chairman of the Board of IRSF, and Paige Nues, Director of Family Support. Dr. Glaze was recognized for his years of compassionate care to hundreds of families affected by Rett syndrome, and his outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life of his patients. Dr. Glaze is one of the world's leading experts in the neurophysiological manifestations of Rett syndrome, particularly for sleep and seizure problems.

Dr. Helen Leonard, Clinical Associate Professor at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and Medical Coordinator of The Australian Research Study, received the 2008 "Circle of Angels Research Award" at IRSF's Tribute Dinner. Dr. Leonard was honored for her substantial contributions which have not only increased the understanding of RTT at basic levels but have helped define the RTT phenotype and clinical outcomes. Her collaborative involvement with the InterRett Database is a critical resource for researchers, clinicians and families.

Additionally, Diane and Mick Ross of Chicago, Illinois, were presented with IRSF's 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award, for their long-standing fundraising and advocacy efforts and board service.

About Rett Syndrome

Rett syndrome (RTT), a brain disorder affecting development in childhood, has been identified almost exclusively in females. RTT results in severe movement and communication problems following apparently normal development for the first six months of life. The characteristic features include loss of speech and purposeful hand use, occurrence of repetitive hand movements, abnormal walking, abnormal breathing, and slowing in the rate of head growth. Current treatment for girls with RS includes physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, and medication for seizures. No cure for Rett syndrome is known. In 2008, researchers heralded a major breakthrough by reversing RTT



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symptoms in mouse models. Rett syndrome is recognized as the “Rosetta Stone” of other neurological disorders, with genetic links to other disorders like autism and schizophrenia.

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Press Release