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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Forget Me Not Foundation Recognized as Finalist for LEAD San Diego's Community Spotlight Award

SAN DIEGO, May 25, 2011— The <u>Forget Me Not Foundation</u> and its founders, <u>Robert Svet</u> and Bill Stone, have been recognized as finalists of the 2012 Community Spotlight Award by LEAD San Diego.

The Community Spotlight Award, honoring everyday heroes who demonstrate "leadership that improves lives through extraordinary dedication to people, organizations or causes," was presented yesterday as part of the 2012 Visionary Awards reception at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. Voices for Children, a San Diego-based organization that "transforms the lives of abused children in San Diego County by providing them with volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)," was this year's recipient. The purpose of the Visionary Awards is to recognize and celebrate extraordinary regional leadership over the past year.

"It is a great honor to be selected as a 2012 Community Spotlight Award finalist by LEAD San Diego," said <u>Bill Stone</u>, cofounder of the Forget Me Not Foundation and President of TheraStaff, LLC. "There were many deserving nominees this year, and it is wonderful to know that our vision of improving the quality of life through the beauty of flowers is truly making a difference in our community."

In fulfilling its mission, the Forget Me Not Foundation delivers freshly cut flowers and professionally decorated bouquets to residents and patients of nursing homes, long term care centers, and other medical facilities. The floral arrangements, which are donated to the foundation after events, are made up of hundreds of beautiful flowers that are disassembled by the residents and patients and used for recreational and occupational therapy activities through creating hundreds of individual bouquets. Such activities promote a sense of well-being, improve cognitive reasoning, enhance manual dexterity, encourage companionship and create happiness.

The recognition by LEAD San Diego comes just months after Svet and Stone were honored with the 10News Leadership Award for their dedication to the Foundation. Video coverage of the Forget Me Not Foundation in action can be viewed online at http://www.10news.com/video/30689934/index.html.

<u>LEAD San Diego</u>, a non-profit organization celebrating thirty years of excellence, operates with a vision to advance the quality of life of the San Diego region through a growing network of capable and engaged civic leaders. Their stated mission is to "provide balanced, issue-oriented programming that informs and inspires leadership and civic engagement on regional issues."

## **About the Forget Me Not Foundation**

The Forget Me Not Foundation was established to enhance lives through the gift of flowers to those in nursing homes, hospitals and other medical facilities. These bouquets – which might otherwise go to waste – spread joy to those who receive them.

The beauty of floral donations can be enjoyed all over again as residents utilize bouquets to brighten their living spaces or enjoy them as part of a group activity. The result is a recreational, joyful and therapeutic activity that enhances quality of life. Gerontologists have increasingly recognized the role such recreational activities play in the lives of patients and the elderly.

The name of the foundation, the Forget Me Not Foundation, captures its broader purpose in bringing care and attention to those in nursing homes and medical facilities who may at times feel forgotten by society. The Forget Me Not Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit organization.

To help support its long-term growth, you can join the Forget Me Not Foundation online community at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Forget-Me-Not-Foundation/217233731621132.

For more information, contact us directly at 877.403.4483 or visit http://www.forgetmenotfoundation.org.