

**Press Release - August 12, 2003**  
Czech Cultural Center Houston

**Near Million Dollar Gift of Louis Hanus is left as Czech Legacy!**

The Czech Center's 2003 Annual Gala at the Double Tree Post Oak Houston Hotel Friday, August 8, 2003 started just as the previous seven had, with 350 plus beautifully dressed guests assembled to salute honorees of the evening, Betti and Charles Saunders, a large silent auction beckoning, beautiful table settings, vocals of national anthems and orchestra music. The food was exquisite, the speaker had the crowd rolling with laughter and then a guest asked to say a few words. He had noted before hand that he wished to make a contribution to the organization, but the amount of the gift to come was unknown.

Louis Hanus, accompanied by wife Oleta, asked for the microphone to announce that he had arranged to contribute almost a million dollars divided in equal parts between himself, Oleta and his late sister Rosa Lee Hanus. To say the crowd was thunderstruck would be an understatement. On hearing the announcement all in the audience rose and applauded in unison! The organization had received donations from foundations, members and friends, but never an amount such as this.

Mr. Hanus is of Czech heritage and has been a committed devotee of perpetuation of Czech culture from an early age living in north Houston in the shadow of the fraternal organization SPJST founded by emigrants. Active in that organization in a leadership capacity all his life, he nevertheless in 1995 was a Founding Member of the Czech Cultural Center Houston lending his advice and counsel when called upon and substantial financial resources.

This contribution could not have come at a more opportune time for the organization. In the midst of building the first-phase of a beautiful new home of Czech Baroque architecture at 4920 San Jacinto in the Museum District of Houston, the funds will be used to complete a second phase, which is finishing and furnishing the first and second floors of the building.

The organization is presently considering naming opportunities to honor this champion of the Czech Cultural Center Houston, his wife Oleta and in memory of his dear sister Rosa Lee Hanus.

The Czech Center anticipates completion of the first-phase construction in late October providing numerous rental opportunities available immediately.

For additional information please contact:

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