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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Irvine Dentist Honored for Local, Global Efforts
to Keep Underprivileged Children Smiling**

IRVINE, Calif. – August 4, 2010 – Some have said that laughter is the best medicine. Irvine dentist Dr. Charles P. Tozzer not only would agree, but his tireless dedication to restoring and enhancing smiles all over the world has resulted in thousands of bright and beaming faces. As a result, Dr. Tozzer today was announced as the July recipient of the Orange County Heart & Soul Award.

Created by [O'Connor Mortuary](#), the Heart & Soul Award program is designed to recognize Orange County citizens for their passion for life and for their dedication to making a difference, whether they possess a lifetime of endeavors or for a one-time inspirational achievement.

“Dr. Tozzer is such a worthy recipient of this selection because he embodies the entire spectrum of service, commitment and passion the Heart & Soul award was created to recognize,” said Neil O’Connor, president and CEO of O’Connor Mortuary. “His relentless efforts to improve the dental health of children, especially those without the means to better themselves, are truly inspirational, and his body of work – the thousands of lives touched – is absolutely remarkable.”

A pioneering dentist and philanthropist for more than three decades, Dr. Tozzer, who holds licenses in California as well as North Carolina, is a recognized leader in the dental community. He has lectured extensively on the topic of cosmetic dentistry and consulted with the American Dental Association on the development of dental software programs.

In 1991, Dr. Tozzer founded Dental Care for Children – a nonprofit organization which has delivered millions of dollars in free dentistry to more than 10,000 disadvantaged children in the United States and abroad. Through a network of dedicated volunteers, Dental Care for Children treats the needs of the young and the destitute in the poorest immigrant areas in Southern California, including Orange County, and internationally in Mexico, Haiti, El Salvador and other third-world countries. Dr. Tozzer’s foundation has touched schools, orphanages and other centers of community where hugs and appreciative words are the only available forms of currency.

“I am honored to receive this award from such an iconic organization built on ancestry and lineage, but as the O’Connor family knows, individual recognition is rarely achieved without a dedicated team to provide a strong backbone,” said Tozzer. “In my case, the work of Dental Care for Children could never accomplish its mission without the commitment of my own family of friends and volunteers, and I share this award with them.”

In addition to its astounding reach across international boundaries and deep into the poorest communities of the world, Dr. Tozzer’s Dental Care for Children has been hailed as one of the most efficient organizations in the nonprofit world. Functioning on donations alone, Dental Care for Children is able to deliver a 600 percent return on all charitable contributions collected thanks to a vast, talented volunteer network that operates with almost no overhead. Last year alone, Dental Care for Children provided nearly \$500,000 in services, hosted a dozen clinics and saw in excess of 1,000 patients.

As a winner of the Heart & Soul Award, O’Connor Mortuary will present Dr. Tozzer, who counts home-cooked dinner offers, Father’s Day cards from entire orphanages and wedding invitations from those whose lives he has touched over the years as some of his most treasured memories, with an official plaque, and a donation will be made in his name to Kids Konnected.

ABOUT THE HEART & SOUL AWARDS

Created by O’Connor Mortuary in February 2010, the Heart & Soul Award honors Orange County individuals each month for their exemplary and inspiring roles within the community. In celebrating the human spirit, the award recognizes OC residents for pouring their heart and soul into making a difference, whether for a life filled with dedicated endeavors or for a one-time inspirational achievement. One recipient is honored each month with an award plaque, a one-time donation to a local nonprofit organization in his/her name and recognition at a quarterly award reception. To nominate an outstanding Orange County citizen, email Patricia Kolstad at patricia@oconnormortuary.com.

ABOUT O’CONNOR MORTUARY

[O’Connor Mortuary](#) is the oldest family owned and operated mortuary in California. With offices in Laguna Hills, San Juan Capistrano and Irvine, Calif., it is the leading “stand alone” mortuary in Orange County. Founded in 1898 by Patrick J. O’Connor, and succeeded by his son Joseph and grandson Joseph Jr., the company today is managed by fourth generation CEO, Neil P. O’Connor and his two brother-in-laws, Joseph Fitzgerald, CFO and Charles Ricciardi, COO; as well as Jeff Turner, CAO. O’Connor Mortuary is recognized throughout Southern California for its longstanding tradition of caring, personalized service, honesty and integrity. The multi-generational company is active in numerous local charitable organizations and was honored by the California Historical Society for more than 100 years of continuous care and service to Southern California families. In addition, the company was honored in 2005 by the Family Owned Business Council for longevity and has received the Leatherby Award for Ethics in America.