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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ST. JOE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
SPONSORS THE NUTCRACKER BALLET**

WATERSOUND, Fla. (November 13, 2014) -- The St Joe Community Foundation (Foundation) has granted \$10,000 to the Northwest Florida Ballet (NFB) to sponsor the holiday ballet *The Nutcracker*. This grant will assist in bringing a wonderful production to the area in time for the holiday season.

“The Foundation is honored to partner with the Northwest Florida Ballet for this holiday presentation to the community,” said Janet Greeno, Executive Director for the Foundation. “One of the Foundation’s guiding principles is to support cultural development in our community, and there is no better way to achieve that than helping to bring more artistic productions to this area for everyone to enjoy.”

“There is really nothing like it to give you the holiday spirit and to make unique memories that will last forever,” says Todd Eric Allen, Artistic Director and CEO of NFB. “Every year we see generations of families that come to share the experience with each other. It’s a celebration of childhood fantasy and the power of human imagination and that is something everyone can relate to.”

The Nutcracker will be premiering on November 21st, and will feature a cast of over 90 local children. The production will also feature an impressive cast of international guest artists dancing alongside the local performers. This year’s production will also be accompanied, for the first time in over a decade, by a live orchestra. “We are honored to present Demetrius Fuller and Sinfonia Gulf Coast at this year’s performances as we bring live music back to *The Nutcracker*,” says Allen. “This momentous occasion

would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors, especially The St. Joe Community Foundation. Their continued dedication to our organization is invaluable.”

In total there will be three public performances: November 21st at 7:30 pm, November 22nd at 7:30 pm, and November 23rd at 2:30 pm. Tickets are available from NFB now by phone and online. To order call 850-664-7787 or visit nfballet.org. Box office prices are \$35 for adults and \$17 for children. NFB will also present two performances for area school children and special needs groups as part of their Education and Outreach program.

About the St. Joe Community Foundation

Since its inception, the St. Joe Community Foundation (Foundation) has provided more than \$18 million in grants to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. The Foundation provides charitable grants primarily in Bay and Walton Counties that embrace the arts, strengthen education, protect the environment and improve healthcare. These efforts help build healthy, caring, long-lived communities. For more information, visit www.stjcf.com.

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