**DONORS SMASH WORLD RECORDS AT THE JUNIOR MARKET LAMB AND GOAT AUCTION— March 8, 2019 — HOUSTON — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —**Donors rewarded exhibitors for their hard work at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Junior Market Lamb and Goat Auction in the NRG Arena Sales Pavilion Friday, March 8.

Mindy and Jeff Hildebrand purchased the Grand Champion Junior Market Lamb, exhibited Jaylin Smith, 17, for a world-record-breaking $325,000. The purchase was in honor of Jeff’s mother and father, Dr. Tommy and Ruth Ann Hildebrand, members of the Lamb and Goat committee for many years.

“Our mother and father were passionate about lamb and goats at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™,” Jeff said. “I think this embodies everything it means to be American. They work hard, the effort, the passion—they’re looking for a hand-up, not a hand-out and that goes to show the ideals of America still exist today.”

Madellyne Adams, 16, exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion Lamb which was purchased by Michell Iverson Jeffery; Tammy, Peyton and Mitchell Barrier; KCEF Foundation – Cookie Michael; and Pamela M. Logsdon, CPA, for $125,000. Mitchell said it is important to give back to the future of Texas.

“This gives us an opportunity to return the blessing and pass it on to the kids,” Mitchell said.

Turner Matkin, 13, a Kendall County 4-H member, sold his Grand Champion Junior Market Goat for $183,000 breaking last year’s world record. Anna and Chris Richardson, Mary and Ken Hutcherson, Pam and Archie Thompson, and Kristina and Paul Somerville purchased the goat.

“It means a lot to me,” Chris said. “I received a scholarship for my college, and hopefully, these kids will use this money to go to college and better themselves and continue our great country.”

Cody Sells,16, from Thrall, Texas, sold his Reserve Champion Junior Market Goat for $100,000 to John Cangelosi, Amy and Mark Melton, April and Scott Townsend, and Lauren and Chris Lewis. John and Scott serve on the Lamb and Goat Committee and love to give back to Texas youth.

“Some of the kids that come out of here they are the first that are going to have the opportunity to go to college,” John said. “So supporting them financially to achieve their dreams is important and necessary.”

Learn more about how the Junior Market Auctions work at rodeohouston.com/Visit-the-Rodeo/Livestock-Horse-Show/Auctions-Sales.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo promotes agriculture by hosting an annual, family-friendly experience that educates and entertains the public, supports Texas youth, showcases Western heritage and provides year-round educational support within the community. Since its beginning in 1932, the Rodeo has committed more than $475 million to the youth of Texas. For more information, visit rodeohouston.com and connect with RODEOHOUSTON online via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube for all the latest news. The 2019 Rodeo is scheduled for Feb. 25 – March 17.