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HeartShare Gala Raises Nearly \$700,000

(Brooklyn, NY)— Spring arrived and HeartShare celebrated its 21st Annual Spring Gala and Auction on Tuesday, March 24. Over 1,000 guests, including stars from film, television and radio, public officials, leaders from the corporate sector, HeartShare board members and staff, and volunteers from the community helped raise nearly \$700,000 for HeartShare's programs.

Jose Velazquez, The Joseph R. Benfante, Esq. Family, Brian Schiffman and The Vittoria Family, and Frank Valentini were presented with awards during the event as guests bid on over 300 items in the silent auction. Suzanne McFadden, whose son Terance attends The HeartShare School in Brooklyn, spoke from her heart about the services her son with autism spectrum disorder receives each day.

“HeartShare Board members Rosanna Scotto from Good Day New York, Emmy Award-winner Linda Dano and Q 104.3 Morning Show host Jim Kerr were just a few of the celebrities who attended the Gala,” said HeartShare President and CEO Bill Guarinello. “Nick Gregory and Mike Woods from Fox 5, Tony Sirico, Dan Grimaldi, and Johnny “Cha Cha” from *The Sopranos*, legendary actor Danny Aiello, Robin Strasser, Kristen and Eddie Alderson, Brandon Buddy, Scott Clifton, Farah Fath, and Crystal Hunt from *One Life To Live*, Academy Award nominee Cathy Moriarty, and Barbara Feldon from *Get Smart* brought a level of excitement to the event that only celebrities can bring.”

Mr. Guarinello continued, “We are grateful to everyone who supported the Gala, whether through sponsorship of tables, tickets or journal ads, successful bidding in the auction or volunteering their time. Given these economic times, it means so much more to us that you continue to support HeartShare's events. All the proceeds will be used by our programs that provide vital services in the community.”

Celebrating its 95th year, HeartShare is a nonprofit organization that assists more than 20,000 New Yorkers. Its wide spectrum of services assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities through numerous programs including education services, adult day programs, residential services, case management, recreation programs, family support services, and health services. It also provides counseling, after-school programs and assistance with foster care and adoption to children

and families, supports people affected by HIV/AIDS, and administers energy assistance programs. For more information, visit www.heartshare.org.

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