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HeartShare Gala Raises \$670,000

(Brooklyn, NY)— Friends of HeartShare Human Services came out to support the nonprofit's Annual Spring Gala and Auction and, despite the bad economy, raised more money than in each of the previous two years. Nearly 1,000 guests attended the event and raised more than \$670,000 for HeartShare's programs for children, adults and families.

The honorees of the evening, Charles M. Barrett, Gregory T. Cerchione, Esq., George L. Greco, and Tamara Tunie, all spoke about what a special evening it was and the positive difference that HeartShare makes in the lives of so many people.

“Among our distinguished guests were Emmy Award winner and HeartShare Board member Linda Dano and fellow Board members Rosanna Scotto from Good Day New York and Jim Kerr from Q 104.3” shared HeartShare President and CEO Bill Guarinello. “Academy Award nominee and Emmy Award winner Danny Aiello, Academy Award nominee Kathy Moriarty and long-time supporters Barbara Feldon, Vincent Pastore, Dan Grimaldi, Johnny Cha Cha, Mike Woods, Ernie Anastos, Robert S. Woods, Stephen Schnetzer, and Ralph Branca also attended and showed their support.”

Guests were able to bid on a wide variety of silent auction items. Among some of the most-wanted items were a guitar autographed by the members of Bon Jovi, field-level seats to a NY Yankees/Chicago White Sox game, a trip for four to Disney World, an Alaskan cruise, a boxing glove autographed by Muhammad Ali, and jewelry designed by Judith Ripka. Linda Dano and Nino Russo of Garguilo's Restaurant conducted a live auction of Dinner with Linda Dano and her celebrity friends which raised \$20,000 for HeartShare.

“Everyone at HeartShare is grateful to the individuals, corporations and countless volunteers who helped to make this Gala a huge success,” said Mr. Guarinello. “We know these are hard times for everyone and the fact that they were still able to support our programs this way is truly remarkable.”

Celebrating its 96th year, HeartShare is a nonprofit organization that assists nearly 30,000 New Yorkers. Its wide array 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 low-income energy assistance and cell phone programs. For more information, visit www.heartshare.org or follow at www.twitter.com/heartshare.

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