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Annual Tree Festival Raised Money for Children's Programs

(Brooklyn, NY)—Children in HeartShare Human Services of New York's foster care program and preschool and school-age programs for children with autism and other developmental disabilities benefited from its 20th Annual Tree Festival. The Festival Closing Party was held at the El Caribe Country Club in Brooklyn, and, once again, was a successful evening with thousands of dollars raised to provide services to children at HeartShare programs in Brooklyn and Queens.

Party goers, **NY State Senator Marty Golden** and celebrities, **Tony Sirico** and **Dan Grimaldi** of *The Sopranos* and Emmy-winner **Linda Dano**, attended this exciting event to show their support of HeartShare's efforts. During the evening there was a live auction of designer-decorated Christmas trees and a silent auction of autographed ornaments from today's hottest celebrities, including: **Harrison Ford, Kyra Sedgwick** and **Kevin Bacon, Whoopie Goldberg, Christina Aguilera, Paula Dean**, and more. Teddy bears clothed by renowned designers **Kleinfeld** and **Sara Oh/Esme Loungewear**, among others, were also auctioned off silently.

During the evening, 10 designer-decorated trees were won at a live auction by those in attendance. The *Twas the Night Before Christmas* tree, sponsored by Prudential Financial, was the highest bid at \$1,500. An additional 10 trees were on display at national**grid** in downtown Brooklyn.

Throughout the duration of the Festival (including decorating trees at national**grid** and El Caribe before the party itself) nearly 50 volunteers helped make the event possible.

HeartShare is grateful to the volunteers, sponsors and donors who contributed to this event in these difficult economic times. Their continued support is deeply appreciated by the children benefiting from HeartShare's programs.

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Celebrating its 94th year, HeartShare is a nonprofit organization that assists more than 20,000 New Yorkers. Its wide spectrum of services 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. It also helps individuals with developmental disabilities through numerous programs including education services, adult day programs, residential services, case management, recreation programs, family support services, and health services.