



BLACK TIE DINNER

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**Black Tie Dinner Announces Highest Distribution in Recent Years**  
*Black Tie Dinner Also Reveals New Branding and 2017 Presenting Sponsor*

**November 11, 2016 (DALLAS) – Black Tie Dinner – the nation’s largest LGBT fundraising dinner – distributed a total of \$1,245,000 to 16 local beneficiaries during its 2016 Wrap Party & Beneficiary Distribution event Thursday evening at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas.**

**Checks were presented by Black Tie Dinner board members to community leaders of the 16 North Texas LGBT-supportive beneficiaries and Black Tie Dinner’s national beneficiary, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.**

**The 2016 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Tie Dinner distributed the following funds to this year’s beneficiaries:**

- **AIDS Interfaith Network: \$41,714**
- **AIDS Outreach Center: \$44,039**
- **AIDS Services of Dallas: \$50,514**
- **Cathedral of Hope: \$45,766**
- **Celebration Community Church: \$47,514**
- **Congregation Beth El Binah: \$43,289**
- **Equality Texas Foundation: \$43,414**
- **Lambda Legal: \$52,156**
- **Legacy Counseling Center: \$44,689**
- **Legal Hospice of Texas: \$42,292**
- **Northaven United Methodist Church: \$46,827**
- **Resource Center: \$58,243**
- **Turtle Creek Chorale: \$41,164**
- **Uptown Players: \$45,147**
- **The Women’s Chorus of Dallas: \$40,640**
- **Promise House: \$42,591**
- **Human Rights Campaign Foundation: \$515,000**

**“We were thrilled to announce our 3<sup>rd</sup> highest distribution in our 35 year history, and the highest in 9 years. We cannot thank our sponsors, table captains, underwriters and**





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volunteers enough for their contributions to this successful dinner for our community,” said co-chair Mitzi Lemons.

In addition to the check presentations, Black Tie Dinner unveiled a new logo and branding, which was developed pro bono by renowned advertising agency TracyLocke. Black Tie Dinner Chairs and Marketing Committee Co-Chairs Brad Pritchett and Aaron Wolfe partnered with the powerhouse agency for a year developing the new look.

“The new logo and branding honor Black Tie’s history of aiding those in need and reaching the broadest of people while giving the organization a fresh, new look focused on vibrancy, versatility and expressiveness,” said Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Nathan Robbins. “It was time for a facelift and we believe our new brand will inject even more life into our organization while helping us attract a larger audience of LGBT supporters,” added Lemons.

Black Tie Dinner also announced that BBVA Compass is the Presenting Sponsor for the 2017 dinner. “BBVA Compass is a long-time supporter of Black Tie Dinner because of the significant impact it makes to both local and national organizations who are committed to making the future better and brighter for the LGBT community,” said BBVA Compass Director of Corporate Reputation and Responsibility Reymundo Ocanas. “I am thrilled at BBVA Compass’ recent announcement that the bank will become the presenting sponsor of the 2017 Black Tie Dinner.”

“We are beyond excited to have our long-time partner BBVA Compass as our 2017 Presenting Sponsor,” said Nathan Robbins, Co-Chair. “This level of engagement from them, at both the local and national level, will help us in many ways, most importantly in helping us raise money for all of our beneficiaries.”

For additional information about the Dinner, visit [blacktie.org](http://blacktie.org).

### About Black Tie Dinner

Black Tie Dinner is a non-profit organization that raises funds for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) supportive organizations serving North Texas through a premier event of empowerment, education and entertainment that has grown into the nation's largest LGBT fundraising dinner since its inception in 1982. The first dinner produced a \$6,000 donation to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, and has since raised over \$20 million for national and local beneficiaries. Black Tie Dinner continues to be the most successful dinner in the country supporting the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, and has the distinction of being the only dinner also benefiting local beneficiaries.

The event has headlined local and national celebrities and leaders such as Marlee Matlin, Maya Angelou, Geena Davis, Lily Tomlin, Martin Sheen, Gavin Newsom, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black. In addition to live entertainment





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and a keynote address, Black Tie Dinner honors outstanding service to the LGBT community with the Elizabeth Birch Equality Award, the Black Tie Dinner Media Award and the Kuchling Humanitarian Award. Recipients have included Debra Messing, Connie Britton, Greg Louganis, Elizabeth Birch, Sharon Stone, Judy Shepard, Alan Cumming, Showtime Networks/Robert Greenblatt, Bishop V. Gene Robinson, Cyndi Lauper, Logo Network/Brian Graden, Chely Wright, American Airlines, Chaz Bono, JCPenney and Scouting For All founder Zach Wahl.

For more information about Black Tie Dinner or this year's event, visit [blacktie.org](http://blacktie.org) or call 972-865-2239, ext. 29.

### **About BBVA Compass**

BBVA Compass is a Sunbelt-based financial institution that operates 674 branches, including 345 in Texas, 89 in Alabama, 75 in Arizona, 62 in California, 45 in Florida, 38 in Colorado and 20 in New Mexico, and commercial and private client offices throughout the U.S. BBVA Compass ranks among the top 25 largest U.S. commercial banks based on deposit market share and ranks among the largest banks in Alabama (2nd), Texas (4th) and Arizona (4th). BBVA Compass was recently named Best Digital Bank in North America by global finance magazine Euromoney, and earned top nods for best mobile app and best regional bank in the South & West in Money magazine's annual list of the Best Banks in America. Additional information about BBVA Compass can be found at [bbvacompass.com](http://bbvacompass.com), by following @BBVACompassNews on Twitter or visiting [newsroom.bbvacompass.com](http://newsroom.bbvacompass.com).

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