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2011 BLACK TIE DINNER ANNOUNCES
2011 PRESENTING SPONSOR AND RAFFLE VEHICLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER OUTSTANDING YEAR

DALLAS (February 22, 2011) – The Black Tie Dinner Board of Directors is proud to begin its 30th year in partnership with and support of the North Texas lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and its national beneficiary, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRCF). On March 30, up to 20 North Texas organizations will be announced as the 2011 Local Beneficiaries. While Black Tie Dinner is a single event, the annual gala results in the distribution of more than $1 million to its beneficiaries creating a year-round operation involving Board members and volunteers.

The magnitude of the activities and the importance of our relationships with those who consistently support the Dinner create a dynamic, non-stop calendar for this all-volunteer Board. The Board typically begins each year with detailed planning activities that include intensive strategic planning efforts, goal setting, the local beneficiary selection process and immediate engagement with the Dinner’s sponsors.

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BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.
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Black Tie Dinner, Inc. has announced the return of GameStop as the exclusive Presenting Sponsor for this 30-year celebration of Black Tie Dinner. GameStop, a company which scores 100 out of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Corporate Equality Index, is a committed corporate partner within the GLBT and local community. GameStop, ranked 348 on the Fortune 500 largest US Companies, is the world's largest video game retailer operating over 6,100 retail stores around the world. This will be the third consecutive year for GameStop to be the Presenting Sponsor of the dinner.

“We find there are a variety of reasons that Black Tie’s corporate and individual sponsors are also some of our most loyal supporters. For corporations, Black Tie Dinner is a way to meet various objectives including diversity programs, local community giving and target marketing. For individual sponsors, Black Tie Dinner is a means to support many organizations at once - or simply an exciting venue for personal philanthropic giving,” said Co-Chair Nan Arnold. “Regardless of their reasons, the common and most inspiring thread, is that the individuals with whom we connect in these companies, as well as our individual sponsors, are all enthusiastic friends of the Black Tie Dinner, its mission and our North Texas Community. It is an honor to work with each of them.”

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The Black Tie Sponsor Program contributes significant funds towards the Dinner’s top and bottom line. Individual sponsorship opportunities begin at the $4,000 Sapphire level, while corporate sponsorship opportunities begin at the $6,500 Ruby level. In addition to receiving a variety of benefits, sponsors are the first to select tables in the ballroom based on the date of sponsorship commitment and sponsorship level. To make a 2011 sponsorship commitment or for more information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Black Tie Dinner Development Director Maggie McQuown at mmcquown@blacktie.org.

Black Tie Dinner is also pleased to announce that for the third consecutive year, Park Place Motorcars Dallas will generously underwrite the Black Tie Raffle Vehicle. This year the prize is a Mercedes-Benz C300 Coupe, engineered for performance driving with a 3.0-liter, V-6 engine. The Coupe is equipped with a myriad of performance features including alloy wheels, agility control and sport suspension. The Raffle has the potential to raise $200,000.00 for the Dinner’s beneficiaries.

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2011 Black Tie Dinner Raffle tickets, at $100 each, are now available for sale through Black Tie Board Members and HRC's DFW Federal Club Governing Committee and Steering Committee members or www.blacktie.org/Raffle. The winning ticket will be pulled as part of the Dinner’s program on Saturday, November 12 from 20 tickets previously drawn throughout the year. The first pull was Friday, February 18th at the DFW Federal Club Mixer at Dallas Fish Market, 1501 Main Street, Dallas; other qualification pulls will be scheduled prior to the November Dinner. Raffle tickets may also be purchased from representatives of the local beneficiaries that will be announced on March 31. Look for raffle information at blacktie.org or call 972-865-2239, ext 33.

ABOUT BLACK TIE DINNER:
Black Tie Dinner, Inc. is a non-profit organization that raises funds for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender supportive organizations through a premier event of empowerment, education and entertainment in partnership with the community. The event has headlined local and national celebrities and leaders such as Maya Angelou, Ann Richards, Geena Davis, Lily Tomlin, Goldie Hawn, Martin Sheen and more recently, Mayor Gavin Newsom and Tammy Baldwin.

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Black Tie Dinner honored figures in 2010 for their support of the GLBT community on a national and local level. The most recent Elizabeth Birch Equality Award, an award given in recognition of the inspirational leadership of former HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch, was presented to American Airlines. In previous years the award has been received by Elizabeth Birch, Sharon Stone, Alan Cumming, Showtime Networks/Robert Greenblatt and Bishop V. Gene Robinson and Judy Shepard. On a local level, the Reverend Carol West was the recipient of the 2010 Kuchling Humanitarian Award for her extraordinary gifts of time and talents on behalf of the GLBT community. The Black Tie Media Award was given to Chely Wright, in recognition of positive, increased awareness of GLBT issues in the media. In 2008 the award was given to Bishop V. Gene Robinson.

Black Tie Dinner, Inc. began in Dallas in 1982 to help support the Human Rights Campaign Fund. There were 140 guests in attendance at the first dinner, which raised $6,000. In 2010, the dinner distributed $1.155 million to 19 local beneficiaries and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. In its 29-year history, the dinner has distributed over 15 million.

For more information about the Black Tie Dinner or this year’s event, visit www.blacktie.org or call 972-865-2239

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Photographs and interviews available