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BLACK TIE DINNER ANNOUNCES BENEFICIARIES FOR 31st ANNUAL DINNER

DALLAS (April 2, 2012) – The Black Tie Dinner Board of Directors has announced the selection of 18 North Texas beneficiaries, and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation as national beneficiary, to be the recipients of their 2012 fundraising efforts.

“Every dollar raised at Black Tie Dinner is of significance because it funds the much-needed efforts of our beneficiaries in our community,” said Co-Chair Mitzi Lemons. “Selecting our recipients is something that is not taken lightly by the Black Tie Dinner board of directors. Our slate of beneficiaries is the very reason that hundreds of volunteers and supporters work literally thousands of hours to make sure those organizations are able to continue making such a huge difference in so many peoples lives.”

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The 25 active members of the Black Tie Board of Directors, as well as advisory members, invest a significant amount of time reviewing the submitted applications. The application review process includes validation of the services provided to the North Texas GLBT Community, the health and stability of the organization and an overview of their strategic plan. Ron Hill, the Chair of the Community Relations Committee that coordinates the review process of the applications, said, “It is enlightening to review the applications, gain better understanding of the purpose of these vital organizations, and to see the short and long-term goals they have established to sustain and increase the services they provide.”

**2012 Black Tie Dinner Beneficiaries**
AIDS Arms, Inc
AIDS Interfaith Network
AIDS Outreach Center
AIDS Services Dallas
Celebration Community Church
Congregation Beth El Binah
Equality Texas Foundation
Health Services of North Texas
Home for the Holidays
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
Legacy Counseling Center
Legal Hospice of Texas
Northaven United Methodist Church
Resource Center of Dallas
Tarrant County Samaritan Housing
The Women's Chorus of Dallas
Turtle Creek Chorale
White Rock Friends
Human Rights Campaign Foundation

The date for the 31st Annual Dinner is Saturday, November 3, 2012 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

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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, Academy Award-winning Actress Marlee Matlin, Multi-Platinum Recording Artist Taylor Dayne and Caroline Rhea as Master of Ceremonies.

Black Tie Dinner honored figures in 2011 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 Decorated Veteran Eric Alva. 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, Chet Flake and his late partner, Bud Knight, were the recipients of the 2011 Kuchling Humanitarian Award for their extraordinary gifts of time and talents on behalf of the GLBT community. The Black Tie Media Award was given to Jesse Tyler Ferguson, in recognition of positive, increased awareness of GLBT issues in the media. In 2010, the award was given to Chely Wright.

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 2011, the dinner distributed $1.142 million to 17 local beneficiaries and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. In its 30-year history, the dinner has distributed over 16 million.

For more information about the Black Tie Dinner or this year’s event, visit www.blacktie.org or call 972-865-2239. And follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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