



For Immediate Release

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ACADEMY OF FRIENDS ANNOUNCES 2009 GALA

29th Annual Gala to Celebrate Superheroes within the SF Bay Area HIV/AIDS Community

SAN FRANCISCO, California -- January 22, 2009 -- Academy of Friends (AoF) today announced its 29th Annual Gala benefitting 12 HIV/AIDS organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. This year's theme -- "*A Night of Superheroes, Villains, and Divas*" -- celebrates the many superheroes that have helped AoF over the past 29 years fight HIV/AIDS in the San Francisco Bay Area. The 2009 Gala will take place on February 22, 2009 between 5PM - 11PM at Fort Mason, San Francisco.

"Academy of Friends wants to acknowledge every superhero over the past 29 years that has supported our organization," said Mike Horak, Executive Director of Academy of Friends. "Our superheroes have helped over 200,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the SF Bay Area. Since every superhero has its nemesis, expect a few villains and divas as part of this year's gala's fun."

The 2009 Academy of Friends Gala will take place on February 22nd at 5PM at Fort Mason. The Gala will simulcast the Academy Awards, while guests sample fine wine and cuisine from many of San Francisco's top restaurants and wineries, and bid on luxury items in the silent auction. The evening will culminate with dancing and performances by the international ballroom and Latin dance spectacular *Burn the Floor*, visits from surprise guests, and a live drawing to win a new 2009 Audi A3 PZEV from Royal Motors of San Francisco.

"Our corporate and individual underwriters are the bedrock Academy of Friends'," said Doug Piper, Chairman of Academy of Friends. "Despite a challenging economy, AoF would like to thank our corporate and individual superheroes for their unwavering support for our twelve 2009 beneficiaries."

Tickets for the 2009 Academy of Friends Gala cost \$250 and will go on sale on January 22, 2009. To purchase tickets visit www.AcademyofFriends.org or Under One Roof in the Castro located at 518A Castro Street, San Francisco.

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About Academy of Friends

Since 1980, Academy of Friends annually produces the world's premier Academy Awards Night Charity Gala as the centerpiece of its efforts to raise funds, award donations, and encourage volunteerism that benefit a diverse set of HIV/AIDS direct care and prevention education agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since its founding, AoF has given over \$7 million to 61 HIV/AIDS service organizations, and will continue its work until the pandemic has passed. The 29th Annual Gala will be held on February 22, 2009 at Fort Mason.

2008-2009 Beneficiaries

The twelve 2008-2009 beneficiary organizations include AIDS Emergency Fund, AIDS Health Project, AIDS Research Institute at UCSF, Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, Food for Thought, Larkin Street Youth Services, Mission Neighborhood Health Services, New Conservatory Theater, PAWS (Pets are Wonderful Support) Positive Resource Center, Project Open Hand, and The Health Trust.

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