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**Formal, Festive, and Fabulous! (All For a Good Cause)
Eleventh Annual Black-Tie GayBINGO Called for Friday, April 9**

PHILADELPHIA – February 23, 2010 – Bingo in Black-Tie? This is not your grandmother's bingo, and it's all in the name of a good cause. The **Eleventh Annual Black-Tie GayBINGO**, one of Philadelphia's most creative and off-beat annual events, will take place at 6:30 pm on Friday, April 9, 2010, at



Philadelphia's elegant Crystal Tea Room. The renowned Bingo Verifying Divas (BVDs) dress in glam drag to entertain the crowd and ensure everyone has laughs and a great time while raising vital funds. AIDS Fund is proud to host their annual fundraiser and award the **"Favorite Straight Person of the Year"** to **Dorothy Mann** of the **Family Planning Council**. In addition, the **Founders' Award** will be presented to radio personalities **Pierre Robert** and **Michaela Majoun**.

Dorothy Mann, the **"2010 Favorite Straight Person of the Year,"** is the Executive Director of Family Planning Council, a private non-profit organization that allocates all public funds for family planning services in the five-county Philadelphia region. The Council provides several specialized programs designed to prevent teen pregnancy, HIV infection, and other STDS; provides care to HIV positive women, children and families; and responds to health issues in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community. She recently served on the Guttmacher Institute Board of Directors, the CDC Advisory Committee on HIV and STD Prevention and the National Family Planning Reproductive Health Association's Title X Advisory Council. She is a founding member of the AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families.

"Dorothy is retiring from Family Planning Council in June after 30 years with the agency," said **AIDS Fund Executive Director Robb Reichard**. "We wanted to make sure she stepped down with the appreciation of the entire community for her longtime commitment to HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic."

Past recipients of the “Favorite Straight Person of the Year” are activist Anna Forbes, Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street, Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell, former Councilman Angel Ortiz, community leaders John Cella and Judith Eden, radio and television personality Bret Hamilton, and longtime AIDS Walk Philly supporters Andrea Finkelstein Losben and Patricia Lavelle.

The **Founders’ Award** is being presented to two radio personalities who have been co-hosting the annual AIDS Walk Philly event virtually since its inception. **WMMR’s Pierre Robert** and **WXPN’s Michaela Majoun** have been longtime supporters of AIDS Walk Philly, emceeding the Walk’s program and encouraging participation through their respective listening audiences.

Pierre Robert was born in Truckee, California, near Lake Tahoe, and moved to Philadelphia in 1981. In November 1981, he started working in WMMR’s music library as an assistant, and a short time later had a regular gig as the overnight weekend DJ. By February 1984, he was hired as the full-time midday DJ, which he did until 1992, when he switched to the morning show. By 1995, Pierre switched back to middays and has been doing that ever since. In November 2009, Pierre celebrated his 28th anniversary with WMMR.

Michaela Majoun has been host of the *XPN Morning Show* for the past 20 years, and for much of that time the *Women’s Music Hour* as well. She’s been dubbed “Best Morning Host” and “Best DJ” by *Philadelphia Magazine*, has won “Best Of” citations from the *Philadelphia City Paper* and *digitalcity.com*, was named to the *Philadelphia Daily News* Dream Team, and has won the Women’s Way “Moving Women Forward” Award, the Hale’s Legacy Award from the Philadelphia Chapter of Women in Communications, and the 2006 Kaki Marshall Arts & Community Award from InterAct Theatre Company. Michaela is an interviewer for and former alternate host of XPN’s national show, *The World Café*. She hosts the annual Philadelphia AIDS Walk and Pennsylvania Ballet/MANNA benefit Shut Up and Dance, and she’s maintained an involvement with the Philadelphia Film Festival, Philadelphia Live Arts/Philly Fringe Festival, Project H.O.M.E., and the Women’s Community Education Project. Michaela was on the air in the Midwest and also worked in television in Los Angeles before moving to Philadelphia. Her interests besides music, arts, and culture include travel and cats.

This year’s Black-Tie GayBINGO will feature dinner, six bingo games, a silent auction, and dancing. Tickets are \$150 per person. The Crystal Tea Room is in the Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia. For tickets, call 215-731-9255. Event sponsors are PECO, National Penn Bank, VU-Events, Woody’s, and Tavern on Camac.

In addition to the annual Black-Tie GayBINGO, **AIDS Fund's monthly GayBINGO events** raise vital funds for HIV/AIDS services. This fun event is open to anyone who enjoys campy humor. It's hosted by the BVDs (Bingo Verifying Divas), drag queens on in-line skates. Each night of Bingo has its own theme and set of special Bingo games. Prizes range from \$100 to a \$1,000 jackpot. GayBINGO is held once a month on Saturday nights at the Gershman Y at Broad and Pine Streets in Philadelphia. Entrance is on Broad Street. All games begin at 7 pm. **This event has raised over \$2.1 million to date.** The remaining spring schedule is as follows: **March 20 – Broadway Babies GayBINGO!** – *Hello Dollies!* **April 17 – That 70's Sitcom GayBINGO!** – *Mary, Rhoda, Weezie, Edith...and then there's Maude!* **May 15 – The Real Housewives of GayBINGO!** – *The size of our rocks are only outdone by the size of our mouths!* **June 19 – Sex and the City GayBINGO!** – *"Are we simply romantically challenged or are we just sluts?"* – *Carrie Bradshaw*. Reserved seating is \$25 and balcony seating is \$20.

The AIDS Fund grant program supports organizations in the Philadelphia Region that provide AIDS and HIV-related services, education, and prevention including increasing public awareness of HIV/AIDS issues. AIDS Fund is the producer of AIDS Walk Philly, GayBINGO, and other fundraising and awareness programs throughout the year. **The 24th Annual AIDS Walk Philly will take place on Sunday, October 17, 2010.** Follow AIDS Fund on Facebook and Twitter: www.facebook.com/AIDSWalkPhilly, www.facebook.com/gaybingophilly, and twitter.com/AIDSWalkPhilly.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: High-resolution photos available upon request by emailing cari@reliefcomm.com.