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Departure to Host RED PARTY in Support of AIDS Walk

September 14, 2010 - Portland, OR – Departure Restaurant and Lounge, the swanky and exclusive culinary space atop the Nines Hotel, will host a fund-and-awareness-raising event in support of AIDS Walk Portland- RED PARTY! The event occurs today, Sept 14, 2010 from 7PM to 11PM and features a RED Cocktail provided by Absolut Berry Acai. Event goers are asked to wear red and take the time to register for the Walk. Those who register and donate may even win one of several door prizes. This event is free and open to any who are interested in the cause.

"Cascade AIDS Project does important work in our community," said David Marsh, General Manager of Departure. "We are proud to be involved with this effort and look forward to hosting the RED PARTY." Departure will also be the host of the AIDS Walk Portland 2010 VIP Breakfast, which will occur just before the walk on October 3rd.

"Without the support of the business community, AIDS Walk Portland would never reach its goals," said Michael Sorensen, Director of Development at CAP. "Businesses are the main push for our walker teams, our sponsorships and the elements that make AIDS Walk possible. The RED PARTY is a perfect way for CAP to reach beyond its own relationships and into the broader community. HIV affects us all."

Departure is one of many businesses stepping up in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Sponsors for the 24th annual AIDS Walk Portland include: the Standard, Nike, Genentech, NW Natural, Family Care, INC and more. The event raises nearly 10% of the agency's operating budget and cannot be easily replaced.

AIDS Walk Portland 2010 is the 24th AIDS Walk supporting Cascade AIDS Project and five other HIV/AIDS service nonprofits in the Portland Metro area. Over \$4 million has been raised to fight this disease via the walk since its inception. This is the second largest walk in the State and is projected to raise over \$400,000, of which 80% goes directly to care.

About Cascade AIDS Project

Founded in 1983, Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) is the oldest and largest AIDS Service Organization in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our mission is **to prevent HIV infections, support and empower people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, and eliminate HIV/AIDS-related stigma.**

With a staff of 48, and a volunteer corps that includes over 700 individuals providing 20,000 hours of service each year, CAP manages a diverse array of programs and an annual budget of \$4.6 million. Fifteen percent of CAP's staff are individuals living with HIV, 25% identify from communities of color, and 30% are bilingual. Our programs serve the broad and diverse set of communities impacted by HIV, from community-specific programs focused on teens, Latinos, the gay community, individuals and families living with HIV, to the thousands of individuals throughout the state who seek education through our AIDS/STD hotline each year. A committed 15-member volunteer Board of Directors provides strategic guidance and oversight to ensure CAP accomplishes its mission and continues to operate with integrity and transparency. www.cascadeaids.org.

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