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Cascade AIDS Project



Fundraiser marks 11th year of support for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS

Portland, Ore. – (February 25, 2009) Camp Starlight, a one-week residential camp program of Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) will once again be the recipient of funds raised from the 11th Annual **Diva's & Desserts**, a fundraiser created by Darcelle XV.

The event will take place on Sunday, March 1st at Darcelle XV Showplace, 208 NW 3rd Ave, Portland. Doors open at 5:00 pm and the show begins at 6:00 pm. Entry is a \$ 25.00 minimum donation, with all proceeds directly benefiting Camp Starlight, a summer camp for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The hosted dessert bar is just one of the many highlights of the evening. A raffle will also be offered at \$5.00 per ticket and prizes range from an iPod Nano to local gift certificates to such places as the new restaurant Urban Farmer located in the Nines Hotel.

Camp Starlight directly **serves 65 children each year**, and the larger on-going program in which Camp resides, *Kids Connection*, serves 145 HIV impacted kids and their families in supportive services. "We're very excited to once again put on this annual fundraising show for Camp Starlight" said Darcelle XV. "Our employees donate their time and look forward to doing this special show all year."

Through its summer sleep away experience and its holistic year-round follow-up program, Camp Starlight provides respite, medical supervision, recreation, and education to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS. Campers tell the Camp staff that one of the most lasting benefits of Camp Starlight is the feeling they receive throughout the year of "belonging" to a family and community of people who care.

As one of our young campers put it, "living with HIV or AIDS gives you a feeling of not-belonging, of being separate and no longer part of the world. At Camp Starlight, you belong. You are touched, kissed and loved." Maria, age fourteen, summed up how many Camp Starlight campers feel when she wrote on her evaluation, "Camp gives me the secure feeling I'm not alone with dealing with HIV in my life. It gives me hope."

Details

Event: Fundraising event and show created by Darcelle XV & Co.
Venue: Darcelle XV Showplace, 208 NW 3rd Avenue, Portland
Funds: All funds go to Camp Starlight, a program of Cascade AIDS Project
Date: Sunday, March 1, 2009
Time: 5:00pm doors open, 6:00pm show begins
Cost: \$25.00 suggested donation; tickets available at the door; plus Raffle: \$5.00 per ticket

About Cascade AIDS Project (CAP)

Cascade AIDS Project has provided community-based HIV services, including housing and education, to Oregon and SW Washington residents since 1985. More than 6,000 families in CAP's service area have a loved one living with HIV. In the last year CAP delivered HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to **18,307 people**; coordinated wrap-around support services for **3,253 men, women, and children** affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS; and provided direct housing and housing-related services to **575 individuals and families** with HIV/AIDS. CAP has an annual budget of **\$4.2 million**, relying on individual donors, foundations, corporations, government contracts, and the proceeds from our two annual events: **AIDS Walk Portland** (October 11, 2009) and the **Annual Art Evening & Auction** (April 18, 2009). For more on CAP, visit cascadeaids.org.

Our mission – to lead efforts to **prevent** new HIV infections; to **care** for people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS; to **educate** communities to eliminate stigma and shame; and to **advocate** for immediate action in combating the pandemic.

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