



HEARTS OF GOLD

links to a better life...

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HEARTS OF GOLD TAKES IN ALMOST \$240,000 FOR HOMELESS MOTHERS AND CHILDREN AT ANNUAL FALL GALA
13th Annual event — “It’s A Love Thing” — co-hosted by Soledad O’Brien and Tamara Tunie brought out the stars and funds to bring shelter families a brighter 2009

[NEW YORK, NY – December 7, 2009] **Hearts of Gold** (<http://www.heartsofgold.org>), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of New York City’s homeless mothers and their children, announced today the results of its 13th Annual Fall Fundraising Gala, “It’s A Love Thing.” The event boasted a grand auction, fashion show, and after-party, and was held on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at the Metropolitan Pavilion in New York City. The gala took in a gross amount of approximately \$236,000, which will be used to support the approximately 900 mothers and children in residence annually at three Manhattan shelters: Icahn House East, Nazareth Housing, and Semiperm HDFC.

The event featured Co-Mistresses of Ceremonies **Soledad O’Brien**, Anchor and Special Correspondent for CNN as well as HoG’s Goodwill Ambassador, and **Tamara Tunie**, of *Law & Order: SVU*, who is also an accomplished producer and director as well as a member of Hearts of Gold’s esteemed Advisory Board.

A glamorous and star-studded crowd including such notables as **Margaret Colin**, **Daphnee Duplaix**, **Emme, B. Michael**, **Tonya Lewis Lee**, **Cicely Tyson**, and **Lynn Whitfield**, enjoyed a fashion show featuring pieces by **Beth Bowley**, **Teenflo**, **Transit**, and **Zapa**, with handbags from **Kyle Westphal** and shoes from **Shoegasm**. **Me&Ro Jewelry** donated a gold and diamond necklace to the Treasure Chest raffle, and RVR Neckwear debuted its new collection of luxury ties and a pocket square which will benefit Hearts of Gold.

Following the fashion show, Hearts of Gold’s Founder and Executive Director **Deborah Koenigsberger** led a dynamic live auction of travel, beauty, home and fashion items, including packages donated by the event’s Honorary Chair, **Rhonda Ross**.

“Hearts of Gold is on our way to another wonderful year of fulfilling our mission: preparing mothers and children to exit the shelter system and thrive on their own. For that, I am extremely grateful,” said Koenigsberger. “If you were unable to attend our gala, please consider donating to our Coats for Christmas fund supporting our shelter children.”

Four awards were presented during the event. **Laura Harten** received the “Hearts of Gold Mom of the Year Award”, the highest honor for a Hearts of Gold alumna. **Stuart Finkelstein** received the 2009 “Hearts of Gold Angel Award” for his tireless efforts supporting the organization. **Claude Castro** received the “Deborah

Koenigsberger Humanitarian of the Year Award" for his commitment to the organization's mission. **Milano Miodini** received a new honor, the "Hearts of Gold Hero Award," for furthering the cause of the charity.

Though New York City has the country's second-largest homeless population, Hearts of Gold Founder & Executive Director Deborah Koenigsberger's vision is to expand the organization, so that struggling families get real-time support not just in New York but across the nation. The funds raised in the annual gala are critical for both the organization's immediate local needs and longer-term national goals.

For more information about future Hearts of Gold events, or to volunteer or make a donation, visit <http://www.heartsofgold.org> or call (212) 206-1461.

About Hearts of Gold: Hearts of Gold (HoG) was founded in 1996 by Deborah Koenigsberger, a former model and a fashion industry stylist who owns a successful women's clothing boutique, **Noir et Blanc... Bis**, established in 1989 in Manhattan's Chelsea district. Her caring nature was touched by the struggles of homeless women in her neighborhood, so in 1996 she founded HoG, a not-for-profit organization that exists to improve the lives of New York City's homeless mothers and their children. HoG has raised more than \$1.6 million in support of city shelters including Icahn House East, LLC; Nazareth Housing; and the former Alexander Abraham Residence. In 2008, HoG adopted a new shelter, Semiperm HDFC. In 2009, founder Koenigsberger was named a Smart Cookie Awards honoree by Condé Nast's *Cookie* magazine. The organization has attracted the support of such luminaries as **Bobbi Brown, Kirsten Dunst, Emme, Edie Falco, Marcia Gay Harden, Hoda Kotb, Laura Linney, Soledad O'Brien, Susan Sarandon, Ivana Trump, Tamara Tunie, Vanessa L. Williams,** and **Stevie Wonder**. HoG is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information on how you can help, visit www.heartsofgold.org.

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