



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Pink Gala...**

**Long Beach, California, August 20, 2008** –The Center Long Beach hosted its 1st Annual Pink Gala, honoring Judith Light, Mayor Bob Foster, Wells Fargo, and Logo for their continuing support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community.

The event took place on August 16 aboard the beautiful Majestic yacht leaving out of Rainbow Harbor. Leslie Jordan welcomed guests aboard while signing books and taking pictures. Jillian Armenante and Jason Stuart hosted the evening's award ceremony. "I thought they were hilarious," said Genea Nicholson, youth volunteer at The Center Long Beach. "They were my favorite part of the evening." Dave Mace, Vice President and Head of Original Programming, who is most recently known for his Executive Production of the critically acclaimed series *Sordid Lives*, accepted the award on behalf of Logo.

Various corporations and local businesses supported the event including BNSF Railway, Wells Fargo, Pink Vodka, Budweiser, Hansens, Pride Travel, Crystal Cruises, Lexus, Long Beach Post, Picture This Inspirations, New Daye Fitness, and Express Graphics and Printing. Also in attendance were Vice Mayor Val Lerch and Councilmember Tonia Reyes-Uranga. Mike Noll, Mayor of Signal Hill, Roberto Uranga, Long Beach City College Trustee, and Julie Ruiz-Raber, former Mayor of Carson, were also present.

There were over 225 people in attendance for the evening's festivities. Guests were welcomed aboard by board chair, Ann Garrett, to enjoy a beautiful harbor cruise during a moonlit night, unique and fun silent auction items, dinner and an open bar. John Murphy and Michele Jensen won a week's vacation from Pride Travel during the live auction portion of the evening. The organization made over \$22,000 from the fundraiser which will go to support various programs and services at The Center Long Beach.

When asked how she felt about the night's event, Executive Director, Kimberlee Woods stated, "It was great to see so many people come out and support The Center." Ms. Woods acknowledged that the event would not have been possible without the help and collaboration of volunteers, board members, and community organizations. "It was truly a joint effort. It feels great to know that so many people really want us to succeed," she claimed. If you missed the Pink Gala this year, there will always be next.

*The Center Long Beach has been the primary source for outreach and assistance serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities since 1977. Today they serve over 21,000 people a year, providing services including support groups, youth services, legal assistance, and referrals for employment, housing, and health care. Their cultural and social*

*activities range from a film festival to educational forums and community groups.*

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