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INAUGRAUL *WINNERS CIRCLE* GALA BENEFITTING CANINE THERAPY CORPS

CHICAGO (September 25, 2008) — The stars and planets aligned to deliver a perfect weather evening on Friday, September 19, for the 320 guests attending *Winners Circle*, the inaugural Canine Therapy Corps (formerly Chenny Troupe) gala. The event, co-chaired by Mayari Pritzker and Elaine Hoffman, was held at the Adler Planetarium. Therapy dogs in their blue work vests and their owners, along with Chicago Police Department Canine Unit officers and dogs greeted guests as they arrived.

The evening's festivities began at 6:00 P.M. on the Milky Way with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and an irresistible array of silent auction items. While nibbling on tasty morsels from Food For Thought and libations from Romano Brothers, guests perused the silent auction which included a stay at DC's Park Hyatt and lunch with Second Lady Lynne Cheney, VIP parade viewing tickets for the NY Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, premium trips, luxury and sports packages, and many more items. Guests also had the opportunity to win a diamond by participating in the Diamonds and Champagne raffle.

While guests dined in Galileo's Café, MC Linda Yu introduced the true stars of the evening; the therapy dogs and their owners. Since 1991, CTC dogs have provided a catalyst for positive change. Rooted in the strength of the human-animal bonds, the programs help motivate emotionally and physically challenged children and adults to work on the arduous task of regaining health and independence after experiencing traumatic injuries, shock or loss, devastating illness, or living with chronic disabilities.

Guest speaker, Linda Levy, shared her remarkable story of recovery from a brain aneurism and her rehabilitation with the assistance of therapy dog, Daisy, a miniature poodle. A live auction followed with guests vying for a week-long Mirival spa retreat, a private suite box for a day at Arlington Park Racetrack, a Hollywood film premier and celebrity after-party, and a week-long Caribbean cruise. Topping the live auction was a dinner designed and created by Celebrity Chef Art Smith going to the winning bidder for \$20,000. Dancing to the musical sounds of the Bradley Young Orchestra completed the evening.

Celestial Sponsors, Tawani Foundation, The J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation, and Bob and Mayari Pritzker were joined by Galaxy and Stellar Sponsors. The evening which raised approximately \$225,000 will help fund CTC's free of charge programs and services. The human canine teams work hand-in-hand with medical, educational, and social service professionals and one-on-one with clients. Currently CTC partners with ten Chicago area rehabilitation facilities, all leading providers of therapeutic services.

Janet Eaton, Executive Director of Canine Therapy Corps said, "The work of Canine Therapy Corps is collaborative - we partner with medical professionals, volunteers and clients to help individuals achieve remarkable strides in health and well being. So too was our *Winners Circle* gala a collaboration of people, who believe in the healing power of the human animal bond and who came together to support our work in an extraordinary way. We are indebted to Mayari Pritzker and Elaine Hoffmann for chairing the gala, to our committee members for their tireless efforts, and to our sponsors and guests who made our inaugural gala a true reflection of the value of our work."

For more information please visit www.caninetherapycorps.org/gala or contact Callandre Cozzolino at the Canine Therapy Corps office: 773.404.6467

Gala photographer: Pierre Desy