



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 9, 2009

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**OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT BREAKS FUNDRAISING RECORD
at DUET'S 19TH ANNUAL POINSETTIA TEA**

(Phoenix, AZ) – For the first time in **Duet's** nearly 30-year history, its 19th Annual Poinsettia Tea fundraiser surpassed the six-figure mark to net more than \$118,000 in support of the organization.

Duet: Partners In Health & Aging (formerly Beatitudes Center DOAR), is a local non-profit that provides free-of-charge services to older adults and their families as they face challenges related to aging.

More than 560 supporters attended the annual event held Sunday, December 6, in Scottsdale. Inspired by a "challenge gift" that would match up to \$30,000 raised, guests contributed over \$52,000 during a live "request for funds." Additional dollars were raised through sponsorships, underwriting, ticket sales and a drawing.

"We are elated about reaching this fundraising milestone," said Elizabeth Banta, Executive Director for Duet. "These challenging economic times have been tough on our organization and the Valley seniors we serve. Our donors and guests understand the great need in our community for the services we provide. We are truly grateful to all for their generosity and enthusiastic support."

Duet supporters Andy and Debbie Seplow announced a "challenge gift" during the event. The Seplows are owners of a Phoenix area Home Instead Senior Care business which offers a wide variety of fee-based home care services. Guests enthusiastically responded to that challenge. The Seplows will direct the \$30,000 grant to Duet's services for grandparents raising grandchildren.

Debbie said, "Creating this challenge gift is one of the most meaningful contributions we could make to our community. It's overwhelming that Andy and I could be given the opportunity to pass

forward the results of our hard work and good fortune to help older adults and their grandchildren in the greater Phoenix area.”

Also during the event, long-time volunteer Pauline Finney was presented with the prestigious Dosia Carlson *KARED About Award*. Finney has been an active Duet volunteer for 28 years – serving on its Board of Directors, as a volunteer for homebound seniors, and on several fundraising committees. This award is presented to a volunteer who brings Duet’s mission to life.

Guests were treated to an outstanding performance by the Phoenix Boys Choir Town Choir under the direction of Gregory Amerind. Maryanne Kremer-Ames and Allen Ames of “Lyra” provided classical guitar music. Jan D’Atri, Channel 12’s Arizona Midday Host, served as master of ceremonies.

Sponsors for the event included: **Platinum Sponsor \$5,000** – Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona. **Gold Sponsors \$3,000** – Beatitudes Campus, SRP. **Silver Sponsors \$1,500** – Amedisys Home Health Care of Surprise; Area Agency on Aging – Region One; Ashton Tiffany, LLC; Bascom Arizona Ventures, LLC; Dorothea & Thomas Clarke; William Heimann, DDS, North Phoenix Pediatric Dentistry; Kile Law Group, P.C.; Chris Kissel & Ty Sell – Morgon Stanley Smith Barney; Pauline Komnenich; Don & Sandy Lebowitz; Premier Senior Placement Services, LLC; SCF Arizona; Vernon & Cille Swaback; and Thrivent Financial – Matt Higgins, Matthew Klandrud, Kip Shearer.

Proceeds from the Tea will be “poured” into Duet’s one-on-one services that are provided free-of-charge to people in need. Duet is a non-profit, interfaith organization that promotes health and well-being through a broad range of services to homebound adults, caregivers, faith communities and grandparents raising grandchildren.

To volunteer, donate, or ask for help, go to www.duetaz.org or call (602) 274-5022.

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