



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 6, 2017

Contact: Georgia Berkovich
gberkovich@midnightmission.org
213-624-4588

The Midnight Mission's 2017 Golden Heart Awards

The Midnight Mission's 17th Annual Golden Heart Awards Gala is set for Thursday, November 9, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. This year's Gala will be a fantastic evening of fun, friends and philanthropy. The Golden Heart Awards Gala jointly honors The Midnight's longstanding legacy to Southern California's neediest individuals and families, as well as those people whose contributions embrace the organization's transformative spirit of giving. As Southern California's premier social service provider, The Midnight has never missed a day of service since 1914.

This year, we are privileged to honor three champions of The Midnight Mission. The prestigious Golden Heart Award will be awarded to **Ali & Anousheh Razi**, Philanthropists & Community Leaders, **Joe Bonamassa**, Blues Rock Guitarist & L.A. Native and **Union Bank**, Corporate Community Leader. This year's honorees embody The Midnight's enduring commitment to those who are less fortunate. We are also proud to be celebrating a year of new and expanded program services for the homeless community. In October 2016, we opened a shelter and service center in Orange County, where we shelter over 400 individuals per night. In March 2017, we launched our Women's Crisis & Bridge Housing Center at our Downtown L.A. headquarters – the first and largest program of its kind on Skid Row.

The Gala will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a cocktail reception and silent auction to raise funds for The Midnight's life-saving and life-changing services. The awards dinner following will recognize the exemplary service of individuals with The Midnight's highest distinction, The Golden Heart Award. Attendees can look forward to a moving program with testimony from The Midnight Mission's program participants, alumni and honorees, plus a **special tribute** to 2011 Golden Heart recipient **Tom Petty** and a **special musical performance** by 2017 Golden Heart recipient **Joe Bonamassa** and 2013 Golden Heart recipient **Jason Sinay**.

The Golden Heart Award is presented annually to individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a compassion for those in our community who are less fortunate. The Golden Heart Awards Gala is our most high-profile event and a wonderful opportunity for sponsors to build a public partnership with The Midnight Mission. The Gala is attended by business, entertainment and community leaders from throughout our region. Past honorees include **Carrie Fisher**, **Tim Allen**, **Sir Anthony Hopkins**, **Chuck Lorre**, **Tom Petty**, **Richie Sambora**, **Dick and Arlene Van Dyke**, **The Staples Center Foundation**, **The Annenberg Foundation**, **Nestlé USA, Inc.** and many more.

Actor **James Patrick Stuart** will be our Master of Ceremonies. Other special guests for the evening include entertainer and former Golden Heart recipient **Dick Van Dyke** and his wife, former Golden Heart recipient **Arlene**, DJ, television personality and game show host **Bob Eubanks** (*who also produced and financed the Beatles Southern California concerts all three years they toured America*), musicians **Jason Sinay**, **Grant Geissman** and **Mark Mackay**, Consul General of the United Arab Emirates **Abdulla Alsaboosi**, actors **Ava Cantrell** and **CJ Valleroy**, television personality, print journalist, author and former Golden Heart recipient **Mary Murphy** and many more.

Proceeds from the event support The Midnight Mission's program services, which include food and safe shelter, bridge housing, comprehensive addiction recovery, an education center, job training, domestic violence counseling, access to physical and mental health services and more for homeless individuals and families in Southern California.



We extend a special expression of gratitude to our Diamond Sponsors: Ali & Anousheh Razi, Chuck Lorre Family Foundation, R. Stephen & Donna Doan and Union Bank, Platinum Sponsors: Dr. Jeffrey & Mrs. Lori Litow and Earl & Claudia Minnis, Gold Sponsors: City National Bank, Nestlé USA, Inc., Mark S. Rothstein and U.S. Bank, and Silver Sponsors: Bank of America, The Arnold Family Trust, Ambassador & Mrs. Frank E. Baxter, Brian P. Bezner & Stephanie F. Bezner, Esq., California State University Foundation, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Mark & Karen Liberman, Norman's Rare Guitars, Southern California Edison and Ardie & Tania Tavangarian.

For ticket and sponsorship information, please contact Katie Norris at (213) 553-2328 or email knorris@midnightmission.org.

About The Midnight Mission: Founded in 1914, The Midnight Mission offers paths to self-sufficiency to men, women and children who have lost direction. Our emergency services and 12-step recovery, family living, job training, education and workforce development programs offer a compassionate bridge to achieve and maintain healthy, productive lives. We remove obstacles and provide the accountability and structure that people who are experiencing homelessness need to be productive in their communities. Our conviction and commitment to their success define us. For additional information, please visit www.midnightmission.org.