Homeless Health Care Los Angeles Hosts 22nd Annual "Plato de Oro" Fundraiser at The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Los Angeles, CA - On the evening of Sunday June 2nd, <u>Homeless Health Care Los Angeles</u> (<u>HHCLA</u>) hosted their 22nd annual gala *Plato De Oro*. The event took place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Downtown Los Angeles, with over 300 guests in attendance.

Each June, HHCLA produces the charity dinner as a direct benefit for their clients. The donations are funneled into the organization's behavioral health programs including physical and mental health care services, a syringe-exchange program, substance use treatment, overdose prevention services, including naloxone distribution, permanent housing, wellness programs and maintenance of the organization's hygiene center on Skid Row.

The gala was hosted by Irish-born comedian and actor, Francis "Frank" Cronin. In March, Cronin raised over \$20,000 for HHCLA through a conscientious social media campaign titled *Rough Set*. Cronin traveled 500-miles on foot from San Francisco to Los Angeles, spending over 40 nights outdoors, in an effort to bring awareness to the issue of homelessness in Los Angeles. Now an official ambassador of *HHCLA*, the comedian provided light-hearted entertainment on the night of the event.

Some of this year's highlights included a speech by HHCLA Board Secretary, a comedy set by LA based comedian Moses Storm, a live auction hosted by Ferrnando Duran and a visual presentation by photographer <u>Josh Rose</u>, who curated HHCLA's <u>In Tent</u> photography exhibit. There were silent auctions for artwork by Kush, a longtime HHCLA collaborator and photographer Karchi Perlmann, as well as raffles for trips to Paris, Puerta Vallarta and Palm Springs.

The event honored two of HHCLA's own with Executive Director Mark Casanova and Director of Communications and Development Heather Edney presenting the official *Plato de Oro* awards. The 2019 honorees are board member Jennifer Nash-Ellenburg for her unwavering commitment to HHCLA's mission and program manager Evans Clark for his tireless service in the field.

The annual *Plato De Oro* gala has seen several musical acts including *Michelle Branch* and *Tears for Fears* music. This year had a special twist with jazz-inspired tribute band <u>Dear Amy Band</u>. The seven-piece ensemble, starring Amy Winehouse look-alike Frankie Jordan, gave an authentic tribute performance to the late Amy Winehouse, performing hits such as "Back to Black," "Tears Dry on Their Own," and "Me & Mr. Jones."

The work continues for the staff at Homeless Health Care Los Angeles as they continue to serve over 200,000 individuals experiencing homelessness. The organization recently launched their Skid Rover initiative, a new project to reduce the impact of homelessness by providing collars, leashes and food to people living in Skid Row with pets.

Click here to view all photos of the gala.