

amfAR

RAISES \$3.5M AT SECOND ANNUAL GALA IN PALM BEACH

Amfar, The Foundation for AIDS Research, held its Second Annual Palm Beach fundraising gala at the home of event Chairs **Michele and Howard Kessler**.

“I am deeply grateful to Michele and Howard Kessler and to all of our guests who so generously supported amfAR in Palm Beach. It is only with their continued support and dedication that we can get closer to developing a cure for HIV/AIDS,” said **Kevin Robert Frost**, amfAR Chief Executive Officer.

In her remarks, Michele Kessler noted that her family’s support for amfAR comes from a desire to “improve the health and well-being of all people, through investments in education, medical research, human services, and community organizations.” On stage, amfAR Board Co-Chairs **Kevin McClatchy** and **T. Ryan Greenawalt** emphasized the importance of continuing to support innovative HIV research studies with breakthrough potential.

Award-winning singer and actress **Jane Krakowski** opened the evening with a welcome message and beautiful renditions of *Bei Mir Bist Du Schön* and *Don't Cry Out Loud*.

The evening continued with a live auction that included a variety of artworks and one-of-a-kind luxury items and experiences. Auction items included: a commissioned Deborah Brown piece, an intimate evening with Andrea Bocelli and family, both of which were so popular were sold twice, a Daniel Boulud dining experience, and more. Two highlights of the evening were a George Condo, which sold for \$1,100,000, and a surprise auction item, which was a day of golf with Greg Norman and Wayne Gretzky.

Florida has the third-highest rate of new HIV infections in the U.S., after Washington, D.C. and Georgia. Close to 130,000 people in Florida are living with HIV, including about 8,400 in Palm Beach County. Only about 70% of them are virally suppressed (receiving consistent care), which falls far below the U.S. government’s target of 95%. amfAR has supported scientific studies at research institutions in Southern Florida since 1986 and has awarded over 90 grants totaling \$6 million in the region. Three grants supported community-based education projects in West Palm Beach.

Aston Martin and **Brioni** were the evening’s sponsors and the event was also supported by **Boroli Wines**, **Piper-Heidsieck**, **RUMOR Rosé**, **UOVO**, **Clase Azul Tequila Gold** and **Tito’s Handmade Vodka**.

For more information about amfAR email **Bennah Serfaty**, Senior Director, Communications at bennah.serfaty@amfar.org.

FIRST ROW: Kevin Robert Frost, Ryan Greenawalt and Kevin McClatchy; Howard and Michele Kessler; **SECOND ROW:** Cindy Rachofsky, Jennifer Eagle and Jeff Schoenfeld; Jane Krakowski and Kevin Robert Frost; **THIRD ROW:** Caroline and Omeed Malik; Jennifer and David Fischer; **FOURTH ROW:** Michael Lorber and Vin Roberti; Kelly Rutherford and Phill Wilson. PHOTOS: CAPEHART / RYAN EMBERLEY

