



Media Contact:
Myranda Annakin, Porch Light PR
317.771.2217 | myranda@porchlightpr.com

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Damien Center to Host Cabaret-Themed Grande Masquerade Virtual Fundraising Event October 24
Virtual event will raise vital funds to support the Center's mission to end the spread of HIV in Indiana and will include celebrity guest appearances from Carson Kressley, Alex Newell, Wilson Cruz, and Big Freedia

INDIANAPOLIS - Damien Center, Indiana's oldest and largest AIDS service provider will hold its 33rd annual fundraising event **Grande Masquerade**, on **Saturday, October 24, 2020**. This year, the event will be held virtually to continue the 33-year tradition while offering a safe alternative to large gatherings. Damien Center is encouraging guests to throw their own party at home, dress up in costume and enjoy an evening filled with Cabaret-style entertainment from Indianapolis Men's Chorus, Dance Kaleidoscope, Indianapolis Ballet, a costume parade, silent auction, and inspirational stories about how Damien Center has impacted members of the community.

Guests attending the virtual event will also be treated to special appearances from celebrities including Carson Kressley, Alex Newell, Wilson Cruz, Big Freedia, and Ross Matthews.

Grande Masquerade has become one of Indianapolis' premier philanthropic events drawing more than 600 attendees and raising vital funds that allow Damien Center to continue offering its one-stop-shop approach to HIV prevention and care, free of charge.

Access to the virtual event will be free with a recommended donation of \$125 per attendee. Tickets can be reserved at: www.damien.org/tix.

Who:

- Celebrity guest appearances by Carson Kressley, Alex Newell, Big Freedia, and Ross Matthews
- Entertainment provided by Indianapolis Men's Chorus, Dance Kaleidoscope, and Indianapolis Ballet

When: Saturday, October 24, 2020
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Virtual Event

Tickets:

- Access to the virtual event is free. A fully tax-deductible donation of \$125 per attendee is recommended.
- To purchase tickets to the virtual event visit www.damien.org/tix.

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About Damien Center:

Damien Center is Indiana's oldest and largest AIDS service organization, and leads the effort to prevent the spread of HIV. The Center opened in 1987 and offers a one-stop-shop model of care that includes preventive, supportive, and medical services that empowers people in Central Indiana affected by HIV/AIDS to move forward each day with dignity so they may live abundant and productive lives. Damien Center believes passionately in the dignity and worth of every person who seeks their services and strives to be a safe and welcoming place so that no barriers separate people from the services they need to prolong and enhance their lives. For more information visit: <http://www.damien.org> or follow them on Twitter at @DamienCenter or like them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/thedamiencenter/>