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**MAZZONI CENTER'S 'ELIXIR' EVENT ON FRIDAY, MAY 20
WILL BENEFIT THE AGENCY'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
IMPACTING LGBT YOUTH**

Mazzoni Center's annual fundraiser returns to Center City this spring with **Elixir: the Cure for the Common Gala**, which will take place at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel (1200 Market Street) on **Friday, May 20 from 7:00-10:00 P.M.**, with a special VIP reception from 6:00-7:00 P.M. Mazzoni Center will recognize a few individuals and organizations for their contributions to the health and wellbeing of the LGBT community, including special guest **Dr. Ruth Westheimer**, who will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award; along with **Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent J. Hughes and his wife Sheryl Lee Ralph**, who will receive a Walter Lear Award; and **David McFarland, Interim Executive Director of The Trevor Project**, who will accept the Peter Mazzoni Award on behalf of his organization.

"In their various ways, each of these individuals and organizations has made a measureable impact on the populations that we serve," Mazzoni Center Executive Director Nurit L. Shein, said, "whether through education and facilitating an open dialogue about sexuality in the case of Dr. Ruth; or raising public awareness around the issues of HIV/AIDS in the case of Senator Hughes and Sheryl Lee Ralph; or through providing life-saving and life-affirming resources for young people across the country, as The Trevor Project has done with its crisis intervention lifeline since 1998."

Guests at *Elixir* will enjoy cocktails, a selection of passed hors d'oeuvres and buffet, musical entertainment by DJ Carl Michaels, plus a silent auction, special live performances and more. Guests who purchase VIP tickets to the event are automatically entered into a raffle to win one of two Elite Island Resort Vacations for two, both of which include round-trip airfare and seven days on Palm Island. VIP guests will also enjoy a meet and greet with Dr. Ruth, plus

cocktails, appetizers, and live music by international guitarist Monnette Sudler. **Tickets for Elixir are available at: www.mazzonicenter.org**

Guests will also explore an exhibition of photo portraits by award-winning Philadelphia-based photographer Rachelle Lee Smith as part of the event. The photographs were taken over the past decade as part of a project called *speaking OUT: voices of queer youth*, and include statements made by each subject about identity and representation. Smith will be on hand to talk about her photos and her ongoing work on the project.

Funds raised through *Elixir* will support Mazzoni Center's programs and services in health, wellness, education, and outreach programming for youth. The agency sees 4,500 young people annually in its health center, in counseling programs, at its testing locations, and through the Ally Safe School and Project LEAD school programs, among other areas.

Elixir co-chair Kelly Harris said: "In addition to celebrating the work of others who have made an impact, we hope to raise funds for and awareness about the young people in our community who continue to need our support and direct services."

Tickets and more information at: www.mazzonicenter.org

About Mazzoni Center

Established in 1979, **Mazzoni Center** provides quality comprehensive health and wellness service and is the only health care provider in the Philadelphia region specifically targeting the unique health care needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. Mazzoni offers a full array of outreach, prevention, education, direct medical and care services, psychosocial services, legal services, and support groups, and is dedicated preserving the dignity and improving the quality of life of the individuals it serves. It is the oldest AIDS service organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the fourth-oldest in the U.S. It is named after Dr. Peter Mazzoni (1959-1990), an early volunteer and one of the first medical directors of PCHA, whose humanism, integrity and compassion were an inspiration to those around him. With over 30,000 individuals benefiting annually from its services, Mazzoni Center is a leader among community-based organizations in the greater Philadelphia area. More information at: www.mazzonicenter.org