



Entertainment Elite Show their Support for the Fight Against Heart Disease

Charlize Theron, Sergio Mendes, Alan and Cindy Horn, Jerry Perenchio, and Haim Saban among attendees at AHA's 2006 Heart Awards Gala

(Los Angeles) – This past weekend, over 400 prominent leaders in entertainment, business, and government gathered in Beverly Hills to support the fight against heart disease and stroke. The American Heart Association's 2006 Heart Awards Gala raised over \$500,000 for the American Heart Association's programs.

The Gala honored Dr. Asher Kimchi, a pioneering cardiologist and heart researcher from Beverly Hills. A native of Tel Aviv, Israel, Dr. Kimchi is President of the American Heart Association's Los Angeles County Division; attending cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCLA; and founder and Chairman of the International Academy of Cardiology. Dr. Kimchi received the annual "Passion of the Heart Award" for his more than 25 years of clinical, research, and community work, as well as his leadership in cardiology education.

"It is incredible to see so many people here tonight supporting the fight against heart disease," said Dr. Kimchi. "In my career, I have worked hard to educate my patients and colleagues about the human heart, and I am so honored that my work is being recognized with this year's Passion of the Heart Award. The American Heart Association is an outstanding organization that deserves our attention and support. I thank them for this award, and I am proud to have contributed to their work."

The Gala was attended by some of the most high-powered names in entertainment, including Academy Award Winner Charlize Theron (Best Actress, 2003); Brasil 66/77 Founder and musician Sergio Mendes; Warner Brothers President and C.O.O. Alan Horn; Univision Communications Chairman Jerry Perenchio; and Saban Capital Group Chairman and C.E.O. Haim Saban.

"The American Heart Association is doing incredible work to fight heart disease," Theron said. "I am glad to be here tonight to support their work."

The event was emceed by comedian Larry Miller, and also featured a live auction. Singer Steve Tyrell and comedian Red Buttons also performed at the event.

This year's dinner was chaired by Dr. John G. Harold, member of the Board of Directors for Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and for the Los Angeles County Division of the American Heart Association, and by Dr. Prediman K. Shah, Director of the Division of Cardiology and the Atherosclerosis Research Center at Cedars-Sinai, and President-elect of the American Heart Association, Western States Affiliate.

Cardiovascular disease claims more than 2.4 million lives annually. Each year, the Heart Awards Gala honors the passion of a leader in the fight against heart disease and draws on the passion of hundreds of opinion makers and community leaders to raise funds for the American Heart Association's various life-saving research, education, and advocacy initiatives.

Get more information on the American Heart Association at www.americanheart.org.

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