



## PRESS RELEASE

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For further information, please contact:

Justine Craig-Meyer, 314-328-2704

[jcraig-meyer@doorwayshousing.org](mailto:jcraig-meyer@doorwayshousing.org)

## RED HOT WILD GALA ALMOST SOLD OUT

DOORWAYS announces its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary RED event will be WILD on Saturday, February 6, 2016 hosted by co-chairs Steve and Mary Schoolman at the Four Seasons St. Louis from 7:00 PM - midnight. The gala features, dinner, dancing, auction, and raffle. The black tie event raises funds to provide housing and related supportive services to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for people affected by HIV/AIDS. DOORWAYS has seven housing complexes located throughout the City of St. Louis, a residential care facility and numerous assistance programs to offer hope and healing for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Through direct service delivery and the efforts of identified program partners, DOORWAYS' programs and services span the 15-county St. Louis metropolitan area, 62 under-served counties in outstate Missouri and another 55 under-served counties in outstate Illinois. As one of the most comprehensive AIDS housing programs in the nation, DOORWAYS offers a range of living options designed to meet the diverse needs of the HIV-affected population. The organization assists monthly over 600 adults and 300 children.

"RED is not just a good time – the best even – it is crucial to continuing our work in a landscape where government and private foundation support can be ever-changing," Opal M. Jones, DOORWAYS' President and Chief Executive Officer, stated. She added, "Our mission is to remain a stable, constant support for clients experiencing their own wild ride as they struggle to improve their health."

This year's safari theme, RED HOT WILD, will feature music from Dr. Zhivegas and include special touches like bright colors, animal prints and exotic drum beats. While the attire is black tie optional, many attendees will likely add a bit of animal print to their apparel. There will be men in suits and in tuxes, and women in floor length formal gowns, shorter skirts, jumpsuits and formal style slacks. Décor will help guests feel ferocious for improved health and housing!

RED will feature Kevin Steincross, local news reporter, as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. D-Ann Kimbro will serve as auctioneer and this year's invocation will be given by the Rev. John Vien of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish. Diane Gershman Levine serves as DOORWAYS' Board Chair.

Learn more at [www.doorwaysRED.org](http://www.doorwaysRED.org).

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Opal Jones, President and CEO said, "RED is an opportunity raise money for the mission and clients of DOORWAYS, yes. But it also serves as a reminder of how far we've come in battling this epidemic. A reminder that there is hope for people living with HIV. And a reminder that as service providers, advocates and people living with HIV, we have to remain vigilant. This is our opportunity to let people know that we're still here and our lives matter."