



**For Immediate Release:**

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**The Hab-a-Hearts 26<sup>h</sup> Annual Luncheon “Salutes America”**

**February 23, 2017** – More than 350 guests attended the ***sold out*** 26th Annual Hab-a-Hearts Luncheon benefitting Palm Beach Habilitation Center on Monday, February 20 at The Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach. This year’s Honorary Chair is Sheila Rinker and Carol Cucci, Charlotte DeLeu, Donna Scully served as chairwomen for the afternoon event themed “Hab-a-Hearts Salutes America”. Sherry Szczublewski was named as the 2017 Queen of Hearts for her outstanding service and support for adults with disabilities.

As part of the afternoon’s program, Marc A. Buoniconti, President of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, who was paralyzed over 30 years ago in a football game, gave an emotional and inspiring speech about how he turned his tragedy into a lifelong purpose to help others. The guests also, enjoyed listening to a medley of state songs performed by the Palm Beach Atlantic University’s Concert Choir conducted by Dr. Geoffrey Holland. Tiffany Kenney, Noon & 5 p.m., Anchor for WPBF 25 News served as emcee.

A highlight marking President’s Day is when the President of the United States Donald J. Trump entered the ballroom to a cheering crowd truly embodying the spirit of this patriotic holiday!

Sponsors of the event included: Gold Heart Sponsors, Al Packer Lincoln, BMO Private Bank, Sheila Rinker; Silver Sponsor-TD Wealth, Crystal Heart Sponsors- Prudie Anderson, Florida Power & Light Company, Craig Mitchell, PNC Bank, Publix Super Markets Charities; Benefactors: Christine E. Lynn, Helen and Manny Logothetis, Carol and Nick Cucci, Barbara Fuschetti, Ann Jaggie, Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation.

Proceeds from this event will help support the many programs and services to more than 600 individuals with disabilities in Palm Beach County. Since opening in 1959, over 10,000 men and women have been placed in community employment. For more information about the Hab-a-Hearts and/or Palm Beach Habilitation Center, please contact Jacqueline Nicholson at 561-965-8500 x212.

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