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***CHICAGO TAKES OFF, Chicago's Sexiest Fundraising Event,
Raises \$70,000 for TPAN***

On Saturday, February 10, Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) opened a new flair of fundraising entertainment with ***CHICAGO TAKES OFF***—*charity at its sexiest*.

The evening was themed as a fantasy flight of burlesque cabaret, chock full of scantily clad men and women from Chicago's dance community. More than 60 performers and dancers volunteered their time for the evening in an effort to raise \$70,000 for TPAN.

“We are incredibly grateful for the committees’ and performers’ time, energy and efforts in providing TPAN with a solid foundation to continue this fundraising event annually,” said Ron Schnorbus, development director at TPAN. “Their efforts have made a considerable impact for our agency, at a time when governmental funding for HIV/AIDS services are dwindling.”

Keith Elliott and Todd Kiech, co-producers and directors of ***CHICAGO TAKES OFF***, gave life to the sexy and classy burlesque show with added artistic modern twists, including the use of shadow boxes to illuminate three scenes of burlesque and a leather fetish number. Elliott and Kiech were also successful with the awesome task of securing dancers and performers for the show who were comfortable enough to take their clothes off. The cast of performers included Michelle L'Amour, a Chicago burlesque diva, along

with Patrick Russo as Liza Minelli, Circuit Mom and The Amazing Tomas. Jessica Halem served as the hostess for the evening.

“This entire show was produced in just two short months, with 630 tickets sold in just three weeks,” said Rhett Lindsay, special events coordinator at TPAN. We have been blessed by the incredible dedication from everyone involved in producing this event and thankful for the success this event has brought to TPAN.”

Sponsors for the event included: BioScrip Pharmaceuticals, Boystownchicago.com, Broadway Costumes, Chicago Party Rental, Chicagopride.com, Equinox Fitness, Gay Chicago Magazine, Hydrate, J & L Catering, Mary’s Attic, Paul C Leathers at Mephisto NA, Paterno Group, Stoli Vodka, and X/O Chicago.

CHICAGO TAKES OFF pictures can be accessed at the TPAN website, www.tpan.com. Also, keep checking tpan.com for more information about CHICAGO TAKES OFF 2008 and other TPAN special events.

About Test Positive Aware

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) is one of Chicago’s longest standing HIV/AIDS service providing agencies. TPAN provides peer-led treatment education, support services, information dissemination and advocacy to empower people living with HIV/AIDS. TPAN also provides free, rapid, anonymous, oral HIV testing, prevention education services and a needle exchange program in an effort to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. TPAN proudly produces the only non-profit, national, HIV treatment publication *Positively Aware* and *Positively Aware en Espanol*. TPAN is a local Chicago agency making a difference nationally.

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