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Coast Mental Health Raised Over \$632,000 at The Courage To Come Back Awards *Successful Event Celebrates the Lives of Six Local Heroes*

Vancouver, BC; May 4, 2009 - Coast Mental Health announced today that the 2009 Courage To Come Back Awards raised over \$632,000 in ticket sales, partnerships and funds committed the night of the event. The April 30th gala dinner, hosted by Deborra Hope and Kevin Evans, attracted nearly 800 guests to honour six British Columbians who have overcome extraordinary challenges and have given back to their communities.

Courage guests gave generously, despite these difficult economic times. Their donations allow Coast to respond to the growing need for services for people with mental illness, many of whom are homeless. Since 1972, Coast has provided high-quality housing, employment programs, social opportunities and community mental health services.

"The success of this year's event is incredible," said Lorne Segal, Chair, Courage To Come Back Awards. "The awards celebrated the lives of six amazing people, and gave us the opportunity to raise funds for Coast. The generosity from our guests has allowed us to continue our efforts in helping people get the support needed to overcome their own challenges."

Darrell Burnham, Coast's Executive Director, said, "Once again the Courage guests have come through in a tremendous way to support Coast's programs. This is a wonderful reaffirmation that Coast is truly making a difference in our communities."

At the event, awards were given to **Helen Burnham** (Addiction), **Jessica Brimacombe** (Youth), **Vivian Garcia** (Physical Rehabilitation), **Lori Slater** (Medical), **Tina Tomashiro** (Mental Health) and **Becki Wyer** (Social Adversity).

We extend a Special thank you to our 2009 Platinum Sponsors; Scotiabank, Global TV, Gold sponsors; Great- West Life, BC Housing, The Province, News 1130, Silver Sponsors; Blenz the Canadian Coffee Company, Spectra Energy Corp, The BC Hydro Employees Community Service Fund, Vancouver Coastal Health, Fairchild Media Group, and TV Week magazine who continue to make this event a great success.

About The Courage To Come Back Awards

The Courage To Come Back Awards celebrate people who have inspired others as they have courageously battled back from illness, adversity or injury. Through Courage, British Columbians are acknowledged for their accomplishments, positive attitudes and willingness to give back to their communities. Through presenting the stories of six amazing recipients each year at The Courage To Come Back Awards, Coast strives to offer hope to those suffering from any illness, adversity or injury and to demonstrate that all people have value and dignity.

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