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Contact:  
Laura  
Ballance  
(604) 771-5176  
laura@lbmg.ca

## **Coast Mental Health Raises More Than \$728,059 at Courage To Come Back Awards Successful Event Celebrates the Lives of Six Local Heroes**

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**Vancouver, BC; May 10, 2010** - Coast Mental Health announced today that the 2010 Courage To Come Back Awards event raised \$728,059 from ticket sales, partnerships and donations at the gala. The May 6th gala dinner, hosted by Jill Krop and Kevin Evans, attracted nearly 800 guests to honour six British Columbians who have overcome extraordinary challenges and have given back to their communities.

The Courage guests' generous donations allow Coast to provide food, homes and jobs to people across the Lower Mainland who have a 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 **Mark Audio Ash** (Physical Rehabilitation), **Starr Peardon** (Addiction), **Myrna Cranmer** (Social Adversity), **Theresa Duggan** (Mental Health), **Fahreen Mapara** (Youth), and **Cindy Thomsen** (Medical).

### **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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