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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BIDEAWEE GALA 2010  
RAISES FUNDS FOR HOMELESS PETS**

**New York, New York, June 8, 2010** – Bideawee Inc, the leading pet adoption and animal welfare organization serving the New York metropolitan area and Long Island, held its Annual Gala on Monday, June 7, 2010 in Manhattan. Nearly 300 pet lovers and Bideawee supporters attended the premier fundraising event to celebrate animal welfare and the Bideawee mission to promote safe, loving, long-term relationships between people and companion animals.

The evening's festivities were kicked off by Bideawee Guest Host, Montel Williams. Mr. Williams is best known for his Emmy award winning talk show and is the author of eight books on wellness and emotional health. His most recent book, "Emotional Wellness," shares his personal story of physical and emotional triumph. Mr. Williams also is recognized for his philanthropic efforts on behalf of multiple sclerosis.

Special presenters were the founders of Rescue Ink, the "Army for the Animals" featured in the television series of the same name that airs on the National Geographic Channel to showcase their efforts to assist in the battle against animal abuse and neglect. Joe Panz, Big Ant and Johnny O presented the Bideawee Volunteer Honoree Award to Susan Schwartzwald for her years of volunteerism at the Bideawee Adoption Center in Manhattan and as an ambassador for animal compassion on behalf of Bideawee pets awaiting adoption.

Mary Testa, celebrated Broadway actress and star of film and television, served as the Celebrity Auctioneer for the Live Auction. One of a kind Live Auction offerings featured a private dinner in the winner's home prepared by Top Chef contender Daniel

Gagnon, a private tour and lunch at the renowned Good Housekeeping Research Institute, and a personal fitting and dress creation by Haute Couturier Norman Ambrose. A New York City weekend package included hotel accommodations at Kimpton's Ink48, tickets for a dress rehearsal of Saturday Night Live, as well as restaurant dining gifts.

"Bideawee's annual gala is a festive evening that brings together pet owners and animal lovers to recognize the organization's purpose in rescuing and nurturing dogs and cats abandoned on our city streets until they find forever homes," said Nancy Taylor, President & CEO of Bideawee Inc. "All of us at Bideawee are sincerely grateful for the outpouring of support and enthusiasm shared at this special event that allows us to continue the Bideawee legacy."

### **About Bideawee**

Bideawee, which means "stay awhile," in Scottish, is one of the country's oldest and most respected animal welfare and pet adoption organizations. Founded in 1903 by Mrs. Flora Kibbe, Bideawee has been providing shelter, care and compassion to homeless animals in helping them to find their forever homes for over 100 years.

Bideawee is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 humane organization and 100% of Bideawee's funding comes from private sources. For more information visit: [www.bideawee.org](http://www.bideawee.org)

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