



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BIDEAWEE BALL 2018 RAISES MORE THAN \$630,000 FOR HOMELESS DOGS AND CATS**

New York, New York, May 31, 2018 – Bideawee, a leading animal welfare and pet adoption organization serving metropolitan New York and Long Island, announced that its recent Broadway-themed gala secured more than \$630,000 in funds resulting from ticket sales, sponsorships and its live and silent auctions.

“We are excited to announce that this year’s gala was our most successful to date; raising important funds that will help us to save and care for more dogs and cats until they find their forever homes,” said Leslie Granger, President and CEO at Bideawee. “We are grateful to the Bideawee Ball committee, our staff, donors, attendees and everyone else who played a role in making the Ball such a success.

This year’s Ball was held on Monday, May 21 at The Metropolitan Pavilion in Manhattan. Broadway veteran Gregg Edelman hosted the event, which included more than 350 attendees – including canine guests! Other notable attendees included: Orfeh and Andy Karl who are currently starring in “Pretty Woman: The Musical” on Broadway; Anthony Rubio, canine couture designer; Tom Murro, TV personality and celebrity news reporter; Brent Qvale, New York Jets offensive lineman; Loretta Swit, stage and television actress and animal advocate; and Dr. Lisa Lippman, New York City’s premier house call veterinarian and host of the “Pets and Punchlines” podcast.

The Ball featured cocktails, a photo booth, an indoor dog park, dancing, Bideawee’s mobile adoption van, a seated dinner and live and silent auctions. There was lively bidding at the live auction with the highlight being the opportunity to have a pet featured in People magazine!

The evening also honored four individuals for their contributions to Bideawee and support for animal adoption. The 2018 Bideawee Honorees were:

- **Honoree Anthony Milone**, the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Cross County Savings Bank is active in his local community, serving on numerous boards and leading various community fundraising efforts, and is a lifelong animal lover.
- **Honoree John Olsen**, an active Bideawee supporter since 2013. He has contributed as a gala committee member and then as chair in 2015 and 2016.
- **Junior Honoree Matilda Wilkes**, a Year 5 student at the British International School in Manhattan. She has volunteered on the weekends at Bideawee for almost two years with her parents. Matilda and her family foster dog, Marlon Brando, the former long-term Bideawee

resident who has an auto-immune disorder. Marlon has flourished since becoming a special member of the Wilkes family.

- **Flora Kibbe Humane Hero Recipient William Berloni**, the first animal trainer ever to be a Tony Award Honoree. He has worked with 27 Broadway shows, and all the dogs he trains are rescues. He is the animal director of the musical, “Because of Winn Dixie,” and has also trained animals for hundreds of off-Broadway shows, regional theater, touring musicals, television, and movies.

Visit [www.bideawee.org/Gala2018-LP](http://www.bideawee.org/Gala2018-LP) for additional event details and to view the image gallery. For more information about Bideawee, visit the [website](#) and follow the organization on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

### **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, Bideawee’s mission is to be Greater New York’s leader in rescuing, caring for, and placing homeless cats and dogs with people who love them. Bideawee provides an array of high touch services including adoption centers, animal hospital, pet therapy programs, and pet memorial parks that serve pets and pet lovers on their lifelong journey together. Bideawee is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 humane animal organization and 100% of Bideawee’s funding comes from private sources. Bideawee operates adoption centers in New York City and Westhampton. For more information, visit: [www.Bideawee.org](http://www.Bideawee.org).

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