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**Downtown Women's Center's Dinner With a Cause Draws Community Leaders and Celebrities**

LOS ANGELES – On Friday, October 13, 2017, the Downtown Women's Center (DWC) will host its annual fundraising gala, Dinner With a Cause, at the JW Marriott at LA Live in downtown Los Angeles. Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, Dinner With a Cause celebrates the power of community in creating meaningful change and honors individuals who exemplify DWC's commitment to ending homelessness for women.

This year, DWC will honor U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for her passion for women's rights, commitment to equality, and advocacy on behalf of her most vulnerable constituents. In particular, she is a strong advocate for female veterans, and has worked closely with DWC to move more veteran women experiencing homelessness into permanent housing.

DWC will also recognize Raul Anaya, president of Bank of America for the Greater Los Angeles region, for his commitment to social responsibility in the Los Angeles community. Anaya oversees Bank of America's corporate and social responsibility activities, such as philanthropic giving, community development lending and investing, environmental initiatives, and employee volunteerism for the bank's 13,000 associates in the Los Angeles region.

This year's Dinner With a Cause will be hosted by comedienne and actress Yvonne Orji (HBO's *Insecure*). Other speakers will include Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey and Los Angeles County Supervisors for the First and Second Districts, Hilda Solis and Board Chair, Mark Ridley-Thomas. The program will also feature a live auction, where attendees can bid on items such as original artwork, concert tickets, weekend getaways, and more.

The event is expected to draw a crowd of 600 and will include local business executives, elected officials, and community leaders. High-profile attendees will include plus-size model Tess Holliday. Prominent political leaders in attendance will include Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Fifth District; Ron Galperin, Los Angeles City Controller; and Jan Perry, General Manager of the Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department.

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**About the Downtown Women's Center**

Founded in 1978, DWC is the only resource in Los Angeles exclusively dedicated to addressing the immediate and long-term needs of women overcoming poverty and homelessness each year in the Skid Row neighborhood of downtown Los Angeles. DWC houses 119 women on-site and will house nearly 200 women throughout Los Angeles County in 2017. Additionally, DWC offers services to approximately 3,000 women annually, including showers and clean clothing; healthy, nutritious meals; case management; physical and mental healthcare; enrichment programming; and job-readiness training and transitional employment. Learn more at [www.DowntownWomensCenter.org](http://www.DowntownWomensCenter.org).