

For Immediate Release

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HUNDREDS TURN OUT TO SUPPORT TARGET HUNGER IN THE FIGHT TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

HOUSTON – February 27, 2008 –The 2008 Target Hunger Annual Gala was held on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at the River Oaks Country Club. More than 300 guests arrived dressed to impress to enjoy an evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing, and a silent and live auction. Melanie Lawson, news anchor at KTRK Channel 13, served as mistress of ceremony for the fifth straight year.

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of two outstanding community leaders, Linda O'Black and Ramona Tennyson Toliver, as the 2008 Target Hunger Humanitarian Award Honorees. O'Black, who currently serves as Vice President of Community Impact for the United Way of Greater Houston, was instrumental in guiding Target Hunger through its transition from a United Way initiative to a self-sustaining nonprofit organization. Toliver, a retired educator with the Houston Independent School District, has been involved with Target since its inception, and currently serves as Chair of the Target Hunger Advisory Committee, Co-chair of the Programs Committee and as a member of the Harvesting Hope Gala Committee.

Two-time Grammy nominee Scott Gertner brought the evening to a close with a selection of jazz and R & B classics.

Major Underwriters for the gala included *Gold* sponsors **Apache Corporation, ConocoPhillips, Halliburton, HESS Corporation** and **Shell Oil Company**. *Silver* Sponsors included AIG American General, BMC Software, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Erwin, ExxonMobil, Mr. & Mrs. Keith Kreuer, Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Guidry, Koonce Family Foundation and Perry

Homes. *Bronze* Sponsors included BBS Technologies, John Daugherty Realtors, DFJ Mercury/Mike & Rebecca Clark, FMC Technologies, Grant Thornton LLP, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Harrell, Pappas Restaurants, Total Premier Services Nigeria Ltd. and Wells Fargo Bank.

To date, proceeds from the gala have totaled more than \$223,000 to support food pantries and programs at Target Hunger.

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Target Hunger , a United Way agency, was founded in 1989 as a grassroots, community-based program to fight the increasing hunger problem within Houston's inner city neighborhoods. Each month, Target Hunger distributes food to more than 8,500 needy Houstonians through its 12 neighborhood food pantries, 16 community gardens, and seven senior day sites. In conjunction with hunger relief, Target Hunger empowers families to become self-sufficient by offering courses and training in nutrition, literacy and math, ESL & GED classes, counseling, youth enrichment and self-esteem classes, and job skills education.



L to R:

Clara Cooper, Executive Director of Target Hunger, **Linda O' Black**, 2008 Target Hunger Humanitarian Award Honoree, and **Melanie Lawson**, KTRK Channel 13 News Anchor



L to R:

Clara Cooper, Executive Director of Target Hunger, **Ramona Tennyson Toliver**, 2008 Target Hunger Humanitarian Award Honoree, and **Stephen C. Beasley**, Chairman of the Target Hunger Board of Directors



Scott Gertner



Guests



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