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## **AIDS WALK SAN FRANCISCO RAISES NEARLY \$1.5 MILLION AS 10,000 PARTICIPANTS CONFRONT BAY AREA'S MOST PRESSING HEALTH, SOCIAL, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

**Appearances by Carson Kressley, ABC7's Dan Ashley,  
NCIS Los Angeles's Barrett Foa, the First Ladies of Disco,  
RuPaul's Drag Race star Monet X Change, and more**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (July 14, 2019)** – About 10,000 Bay Area residents gathered in Golden Gate Park at Sunday's 33<sup>rd</sup> annual AIDS Walk San Francisco to advocate for the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, confront homelessness, help feed people in need, and protect the health and dignity of all members of the community.

The 10K Walk and rally raised nearly \$1.5 million, which will benefit **PRC, Project Open Hand**, and the **POP-UP Clinic at Ward 86**, as well as dozens of other Bay Area HIV/AIDS Service organizations.

"Given the evolution of the HIV epidemic, it is more important than ever that we continue to raise awareness and funds that not only support HIV care and prevention services, but also housing, substance use, mental health, and other crucial social services that aim to meet the needs of our community," said **Brett Andrews, CEO of PRC**. "AIDS Walk San Francisco is helping to bring our community together, while infusing our system of care with much needed resources—and for that we say, thank you."

"It's more important than ever to support our HIV/AIDS community with the nutritious meals, housing, medication, and support they deserve," said **Paul Hepfer, CEO of Project Open Hand**. "The joyful crowd today offers a welcome reminder that the Bay Area cares for our community and is committed to helping the critically ill."

"We at Ward 86 are so honored to be one of the beneficiaries of the AIDS Walk San Francisco this year," said **Monica Gandhi, MD, MPH, the Medical Director of Ward 86**. "We believe strongly that everyone in San Francisco with HIV should get the best care possible and we have a new model of care at Ward 86 for those who are unstably housed or homeless to try to serve them better. This program—called the POP-UP Clinic—delivers holistic and compassionate care to our city's most vulnerable patients. AIDS Walk San Francisco will help us realize our dream of serving this important patient population better, and we are so grateful to the everyone who walked for HIV care in the city today!"

ABC7 lead anchor **Dan Ashley** hosted the Opening Ceremony in Robin Williams Meadow, where **Barrett Foa (NCIS Los Angeles)**, Tony winner **John Lloyd Young (Jersey Boys)**, **Ryan Jamaal Swain (Pose)**, actress

and activist **Meredith Baxter** (*Family Ties*), and more addressed the crowd after the Macy's Aerobic Warm-Up.

A Post-Walk Show, also in Robin Williams Meadow, was held for all participants and featured TV personality **Carson Kressley** (*RuPaul's Drag Race*) and performances by the **First Ladies of Disco**: Grammy winner **Thelma Houston** ("Don't Leave Me This Way"), two-time Grammy nominee **Martha Wash** ("It's Raining Men"), and **Norma Jean Wright** (formerly of CHIC, "Everybody Dance"); **Dan Ashley**; and **Monet X Change** (*RuPaul's Drag Race*). A VIP lounge was available for participants who raised \$200 or more.

The Premier Sponsor of AIDS Walk San Francisco 2019 was **Gilead**. The Walk's Grand Sponsors were **ABC7** and **Quest Diagnostics**. Principal Sponsors were **BIO-RAD**, **Chevron**, **ViiV Healthcare**, and **Wells Fargo**. Major sponsors included **Gap Inc.**, **Levi Strauss & Co.**, **SF Examiner**, and **SF Weekly**. Supporting Sponsors were **HP**, **MyHardBelly**, **Redwood Credit Union**, and **Williams-Sonoma, Inc.** Event Sponsors were **A Black Tie Affair**, **Golden 1 Credit Union**, **Merck**, **Recology**, and **Seyfarth Shaw LLP**. **Macy's** was the Aerobic Warm-Up and Finish Line Sponsor.

Since 1987, AWSF has raised more than \$90 million for a variety of Bay Area HIV/AIDS care, prevention services, and advocacy organizations and has long been Northern California's largest AIDS fundraising event. This year's Walk benefits **PRC**, **Project Open Hand**, and the **POP-UP Clinic at Ward 86**, as well as dozens of other Bay Area HIV/AIDS Service organizations.

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**About AIDS Walk San Francisco:** Since 1987, AIDS Walk San Francisco has raised more than \$90 million for lifesaving HIV prevention, testing, and care programs and services, and has grown into the largest AIDS fundraising event in Northern California. AIDS Walk San Francisco has become a Bay Area tradition, bringing together tens of thousands of participants and volunteers; hundreds of corporate, community, and friends and family teams; and hundreds of thousands of donors from the Bay Area and across the country. The 2019 Walk benefited [PRC](#), [Project Open Hand](#), the [POP-UP Clinic at Ward 86](#), and many other Bay Area AIDS service organizations, and was a project of ACRIA. The event was founded by Craig R. Miller and his organization of activists, MZA Events. For more information, visit [sf.aidswalk.net](http://sf.aidswalk.net).