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**ANDY HEYWARD AND P.J. HOGAN AND JOCELYN MOORHOUSE
HONORED AT THE HELP GROUP'S 2008 TEDDY BEAR PICNIC**

**Spring Luncheon to Benefit The Help Group's Efforts On Behalf Of Children with Autism,
Learning Disabilities, and Other Special Needs**

SHERMAN OAKS, CA (June 6, 2008) The Teddy Bear Picnic, The Help Group's 31st Annual Spring Luncheon, at The Beverly Hilton Hotel on June 5th raised significant funds in support of The Help Group's schools and programs serving pre-K through high school children with special needs on four major campuses in Los Angeles.

The Help Group presented **Andy Heyward, Chairman & CEO, DIC Entertainment**, ("Inspector Gadget," "Strawberry Shortcake," "Care Bears") with its '**Help Humanitarian Award**' in recognition of his commitment to enriching the lives of children. Distinguished writer-producer-directors **P. J. Hogan** ("My Best Friend's Wedding" and upcoming "Confessions of a Shopaholic") and **Jocelyn Moorhouse**, ("Muriel's Wedding," "Proof") – the proud parents of four children, three of whom have learning differences – were honored with **The Help Group's 'Champion for Children Award'** for their dedication to children with special needs.

Grammy Nominated singer-song writer, Sophie B. Hawkins gave a stirring performance of her chart-topping hit single, "As I Lay Me Down". With a musical tribute for the honorees, Hawkins and The Help Group's Children's choir, sang *Reach Out and Touch*, with featured solos by the children.

The Teddy Bear Picnic opened with The Help Group's Children's Choir's enthusiastic performance of *Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now*, accompanied by **former lead singer of the Temptations, Louis Price**. With wit and humor, emcee of the event, **Jake Steinfeld, founder of Body by Jake Global, and Chair of the California Governor's Council on Physical Fitness**, opened the show by challenging special guest **37th Governor of California, Gray Davis** to the Governor's fitness challenge—10 perfect push-ups. Steinfeld acknowledged The Help Group's contributions to children with special needs saying, "Having served tens of thousands of children with special needs and their families over the years, The Help Group has enabled children to achieve goals that may have once seemed impossible."

Gary. H. Carmona, Chairman of the Help Group Board, welcomed luncheon guests and **Dr. Barbara Firestone, Help Group President and CEO**, thanked everyone for their friendship and generosity, and remarked, "Your philanthropic support is integral to all of our efforts on behalf of the children with special needs and their families." Recognizing the honorees for their commitment to children Firestone said, "Andy has enriched the lives of countless children worldwide and PJ and Jocelyn believe as we do that all children must be given the opportunity to fully realize their potential."

During the award ceremony, **Film Composer and Academy Award Nominee, James Newton Howard**, gave an eloquent introduction to Hogan and Moorhouse. In his heartfelt acceptance remarks, **Hogan** said,

“Ultimately, raising a special needs child...is about loving them for who they are, and helping them be the best they can be, and in doing so - on certain days, at certain moments - realizing that they have made you the best that you can be. To all parents of children with special needs, we salute you.” Joining her husband, **Moorhouse**, poignantly reflected, “If I have any advice for parents of newly diagnosed kids it is this: Reach out. There are so many of us, and we really can help each other. We share the same fears and we know the same pain, and we love each other’s kids because they remind us of our own. PJ and I will always be grateful to The Help Group, who care as much about our kids as we do.”

Governor Gray Davis gave a warm introduction to his dear friend and colleague, **Andy Heyward**. Upon receiving his Help Humanitarian award, Heyward reflected, “After being introduced to The Help Group, I must say there was no question from that moment on that I wanted to be a part of this amazing organization and help in any way that I possibly could. After seeing the kids here today, I don’t think there was one of us that wasn’t choked up watching these amazing kids—we are all in awe. It’s a great honor to be a part of The Help Group family and all that you do. I thank you and continue your beautiful brilliant work.”

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