



The Woodlands Foundation
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SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUES IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

Woodlands Foundation to honor Laura Karet, Sr. Executive Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer of Giant Eagle Inc., and Tom Karet, Managing Partner of Echo Real Estate Services, at Gala Fundraiser
8th Annual Butterfly Ball to Benefit Woodlands' Programs for Children with Disabilities

Wexford, PA, August 24, 2009 – Although economic growth in the U.S. remains sluggish and people everywhere have tightened their belts on spending, many continue to support the causes they believe in and to give back to their communities. Two such people will be honored at the Woodlands Foundation's upcoming gala fundraiser, the Butterfly Ball, on Saturday, October 3 at the Pittsburgh Marriott North. Laura and Tom Karet have each made an impact on the Pittsburgh community through their involvement with local charitable organizations.

Laura Karet, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer of Giant Eagle Inc., is an active member of the Board of Directors of several community organizations including Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and the Institute for Transfusion Medicine/Central Blood Bank. Tom, a managing partner of Echo Real Estate Services, is a trustee of the Pittsburgh Children's Museum, the Western PA School for Blind Children, and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.

Funds raised at the annual Butterfly Ball will support the Woodlands' programming for children and young adults with disability and chronic illness. The Woodlands, which partners with more than 20 different charitable organizations, annually serves over 6,000 participants. Its innovative programs include the Notes from the Heart Music Program, Mazerowski Sports Program, Creative Arts Program, Jewel in the Woods Spirituality Program, year-round aquatics, and adaptive golf at the region's only "No Handicap" Golf Course.

Annie Hanna Engle, Chief Legal Counsel for Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, is Honorary Chair of the event. Kathy Drambel and Kate Srigley are co-chairs.

Tickets for the Butterfly Ball are \$150 per person. Activities include a cocktail reception and silent auction beginning at 6 p.m., followed by dinner, a live auction, and dancing. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available by calling the Woodlands Foundation at (724) 935-6533. For more information about the Woodlands, go to www.woodlandsfoundation.org.

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