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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SRHF 2017 Gala Celebrates 15 Years and Raises over \$350,000**

Close to 400 people gathered in the Granite Links Golf Club Ballroom in Quincy on Thursday, March 2, 2017, for the ninth annual gala to raise money for the Saint Rock Haiti Foundation (SRHF).

The event, Building Hope Together: Celebrating 15 Years, raised over \$350,000 to support the ongoing operations of the foundation in the hills above Port-au-Prince. SRHF runs a medical and dental clinic, offers educational sponsorships, funds agricultural and micro loan initiatives, as well as other community development projects.

Much of the success of the evening rested on a generous matching grant from the Flatley Foundation. Other major sponsors included Saint Agatha Parish (Milton/Quincy) Global Outreach Ministry, an anonymous donor, the Wessling family, and the Cole family.

Eileen Curran served as Master of Ceremonies for the third time and narrated a new video highlighting the achievements of the organization over the last 15 years.

Nannette Canniff and Rev. Gerald Osterman, founders of the Saint Boniface Haiti Foundation and SRHF board members, were honorary chairs of the event.

Guests were treated to an original Haitian Creole song by local tenor Pierre Gardy Fontaine.

State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry introduced keynote speaker, Nadia Raymond of Brigham and Women's Hospital and EqualHealth. In her address, Raymond spoke about the way in which her presence that evening was the representation of 10,000 Haitians who are grateful for the work of SRHF.

Foundation President Jocelyn Bresnahan introduced two patients of the SRHF Centre de Santé visiting from Haiti. Teenager Lourdina Chery had life saving heart surgery in 2013 at Mass General Hospital and was here for a check up. Bresnahan

announced that the other patient, Makenson Joseph, would be receiving similar surgery at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in the days after the Gala. Makenson is married and has two young children. Without the presence of SRHF in Haiti, both patients would have faced a grim future.

Noting the "immense work that still needs to be done despite the foundation's vast accomplishments," Bresnahan encouraged friends and donors to "continue to work side by side with us so that our full potential can be realized."

Dr. Jean Kenes Eloy, Saint Rock Centre de Santé Medical Director, visiting from Saint Rock, Haiti, was introduced by SRHF board member Dr. Daniel Driscoll, and thanked the crowd and the foundation for their support.

For more information about the Saint Rock Haiti Foundation, go to [www.saintrock.org](http://www.saintrock.org).

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