

**::: PRESS RELEASE :::**

**HELPING TO MAKE CYSTIC FIBROSIS HISTORY**

*65 Roses Gala goes back to the 20's  
to make cystic fibrosis a thing of the past*

**Toronto, Ontario (March 29, 2006)** -- The 65 Roses Gala, hosted by the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF), will be a blast to the past, honouring the roaring 20's in a celebration to support the fight against cystic fibrosis (CF).

This 5th annual event launches Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month (May) and takes place on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 at the beautiful Arcadian Court in Toronto.

Global Television's Susan Hay will emcee this historical evening where guests travel back to the 20's in hopes of creating a future without CF.

Cystic fibrosis is the most common, fatal inherited disease affecting young Canadians. The median survival rate of those diagnosed with CF is just 37 years of age. It is estimated that one in every 3,700 children born in Canada has cystic fibrosis and that one in every 25 Canadians carries the defective gene responsible for CF.

Great advances have been made in research and care. Canada is at the forefront in the fight against CF, and in fact, Canadian researchers at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children -- funded by the CCFF -- discovered the gene responsible for CF in 1989. "Creating awareness about CF is so very important to me," says Tara Parton, who has CF and will be speaking at the Gala. "In the past eight months, I have lost two very special friends with CF. I feel that it is my responsibility to do what I can to help find a cure, so that other children will not have to go through what my friends and I have gone through." All proceeds from this event will support the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

***Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation***

*The CCFF is a Canada-wide health charity, with more than 50 volunteer chapters, which funds cystic fibrosis research and care. The Foundation is a world leader in the fight against CF. Canadian investigators continue to play a leading role in the worldwide race to find a cure or control for the disease. When the CCFF was established in 1960, most children with CF did not live long enough to attend kindergarten; today half of all Canadians with CF may be expected to live into their late 30s, and beyond.*

*For more information about CF and Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month, please contact the CCFF at (416) 932-3900, ext. 225.*

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**Note to Media:** Additional information and media interviews with Ms. Tara Parton and other CCFF representatives are available by phone and on location prior to the official welcome (time TBD). Please call to confirm attendance and/or interview requests. The Arcadian Court is located at 401 Bay Street, Simpson Tower, 8th Floor.

**For additional information and media interviews, please contact:**

Steve Silva, Media Relations  
(416) 932-3900, ext. 225; Cell: (647) 882-9078  
65rosesgala@ccfftoronto.ca