

Be Beautiful Be Yourself Jet Set Fashion Show

Makes History With Inaugural Award For QUINCY JONES

The Global Down Syndrome Foundation will make history by presenting the inaugural Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Award to Music Icon Quincy Jones at the *Be Beautiful Be Yourself Jet Set Fashion Show* on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center.

The award, a crystal oval stand, is designed by Tiffany & Co.



Each year the award will recognize a celebrity who has shown exceptional philanthropic leadership and has empowered people with developmental disabilities. "Our children with developmental disabilities, especially Down syndrome, are often swept under the rug. With Quincy's generous support and this

Left photo: International Spokesperson and music Icon Quincy Jones with Sophia Whitten and her grandmother Anna Sie. **Right photo:** Crush player Delvin Hughley accompanies models Brianna Cordova and Cameron Tafoya down the runway

award, we are able to provide a special thanks to busy celebrities who have taken time to understand our children and to shine a light on their contributions and brilliance in this world," said Michelle Sie Whitten, executive director of the foundation.

Bookending the event is actor and comedian Tom Arnold, attending the VIP Reception, and singer-songwriter Josh Kelley, performing a special selection of songs after the fashion show.

This year's fashion show will highlight guest models: Hanna Atkinson, Steve Ballard, Alan Beals, Megan Bomgaars, Ronald Ray Brewer Jr., Yadira Mariel Carrillo, Brianna Cordova, Michael Dilworth, Abigail Frary, Channing Jenkins, Dennis Johns, Connor Long, Carol Rachel Lopez-Garcia, Thomas Malone, Chuntelle Milton, Donene Mumaw, Ted Polito, Eliza Richard, Sidney Robertson, Christopher Rodriguez-Benitez, Alexandra Shankle, Jacob Stapel, Noah Stokes, Ava Vincent, and Sarah Wells.

The fashion show models will be escorted down the runway with local celebrities including 2009 Miss Colorado Katie Layman, John Lynch, Ed McCaffrey, and Billy Van Heusen.

The *Be Beautiful Be Yourself Jet Set Fashion Show* fundraiser aims to raise over \$1 million, believed to be the largest ever single fundraiser for Down syndrome, and sell out at the Hyatt with 1,200 seats.

Notable Coloradans supporting the event include Governor Bill Ritter Jr., First Lady Jeannie Ritter, Denver Mayor John W. Hickenlooper, Helen Thorpe, Anna and John J. Sie, Ricki Perry Rest and David Rest, Sharon Magness Blake and Ernie Blake, Mike and Amber Fries, Suzanne Arkle Wilson and M. Roy Wilson, Peter and Bonnie Kudla, Laura Barton and William Matthews, Donald and Susan Sturm, Jordon and Essie Perlmutter, Robin Chotin, Steven Chotin, Dr. Dean Prina, Jack and Pat McDonnell, Debbi and Lee Alpert, Cookie and Lester Gold, Susan and Randy Karsh, Shereen and Michael Pollack, Larry and Carol Mizel, Norm and Sunny Brownstein, and Steve and Cindy Farber.

2009 marks the 50th anniversary of identifying the genetic cause of Down syndrome, the most frequent chromosomal disorder in the United States accounting for 1 in 733 live births. More than 400,000 people in the US



and millions worldwide have the condition. Despite these numbers, it is the least funded genetic condition by the National Institutes of Health. In 2008, Down syndrome accounted for just 0.0006 of its \$28 billion budget.

The Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome aims to eradicate the ill effects associated with the condition and significantly improve the lives of people with Down syndrome throughout the world. The institute is named in memory of Dr. Linda Crnic and her unwavering dedication to people with Down syndrome through translational research. Crnic, who died tragically in a bicycle accident in 2004, was a professor of pediatrics and psychiatry and director of the Colorado Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Center.

The inspiration for the establishment of the Linda Crnic Institute is Anna and John J. Sie granddaughter Sophia Kay Whitten, who has Down syndrome. Through the largest private contribution dedicated to people with Down syndrome in the world, the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation's commitment of \$22 million, and the Sie's commitment to raise another \$12 million ensures the institute will be a global beacon for research and care.

The Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome is the first national organization to house basic research, clinical research and clinical care for people with Down syndrome under one umbrella. The institute is a collaboration between the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Colorado Denver and The Children's Hospital. It is located on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, and is the beneficiary of the proceeds from this year's *Be Beautiful Be Yourself Jet Set Fashion Show*.

Editor's note: For more information or tickets for the Be Beautiful Be Yourself Jet Set Fashion Show on Saturday, Oct. 10, call Diana Moore at the Global Down Syndrome Foundation at 303-468-6663 or visit www.coloradojetset.com.



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