

COMPASS INC. SUPPORTERS CELEBRATE OFFICE MOVE, 2008 SUCCESSES

By *SHANNON DONNELLY*, Palm Beach Daily News Society Editor

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The annual cocktail reception and dinner dance kicked off 2009 for the major supporters of Compass Inc.

Cocktails for Compass took place Jan. 4 at Club Colette and celebrated both the center's move to downtown Lake Worth and its 21 years of youth, family and HIV/AIDS services.

The evening began with a cocktail reception and silent auction in the club's courtyard. From there, guests moved to the dining rooms for dinner, a live auction and dancing.

Scott Fox, Compass' executive director, recounted the center's accomplishments during 2008. Last year, Compass entered into a public-private partnership with the City of Lake Worth to operate, renovate and maintain a downtown facility located at 201 N. Dixie Highway.

Also in 2008, Compass received the Martin Luther King Jr. Organization Leadership Award by Palm Beach Community College and recognition from the Clerk & Comptroller's office for Best Practices.

Fox also announced plans for 2009, including the naming of "The Smart Ride HIV Testing Room" in honor of that organization's dedication to Compass' health-related services.

Glen Weinzimer, the SmartRide founder and David Spacht, SmartRide director, spoke on behalf of The Smart Ride organization.

Sonja Abrahamsen was chairwoman and Alfred Fiandaca was chairman of the event. More than 100 people attended.

Proceeds from the event assist Compass Inc., the gay and lesbian community center of the Palm Beaches, in its mission to diminish stereotypes by empowering youth, promoting pride in the community, and acting as an educator, advocate, health service provider and focal point for community organizing.



Scott Fox, Jamie Foreman and Tony Plakas

Among the photos:



Don Todorich, Robert Pingpank and Richard Nolan