



CASEY HOUSE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CASEY HOUSE ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF THE CASEY AWARDS**  
**To be presented February 28 at fundraising gala SnowBall 2009 | Love & Devotion**

**February 4, 2009 – (Toronto, ON)** Casey House today announced this year's recipients of **The Casey Awards**, honouring leadership in the fields of HIV/AIDS and social justice. The awards will be presented February 28 at **SnowBall 2009 | Love & Devotion, presented by BMO Financial Group**. The annual signature fundraising gala for Casey House will take place this year at the Fairmont Royal York, featuring a performance by Canadian R&B powerhouse **Divine Brown**.

Launched last year in memory of **June Callwood**, a founder of Casey House, The Casey Awards annually recognize up to five individuals or organizations whose pioneering leadership and activism in the fields of HIV/AIDS and social justice carry on June Callwood's passionate life's work. "This year's recipients have worked in all areas of the globe, in varying capacities," said Awards Chair **Pearse Murray**. "These leaders share June's commitment to volunteerism and collaboration, and an unwavering dedication to advancing the dignity and rights of people who have been marginalized due to illness or poverty."

This year's recipients are (*full bios at [www.caseyhouse.com](http://www.caseyhouse.com)*):

- **Richard Burzynski**, a passionate and world-renowned pioneer in advocating for a community-based response to HIV/AIDS;
- **Jim Shea** (presented posthumously), a Casey House founding volunteer and Ontario community health organizer; and
- **Dr. Jane Philpott**, a family physician whose experience practicing medicine in Niger for nearly a decade led her to found Give a Day, a volunteer-run campaign raising money for international HIV/AIDS relief.

Casey House's SnowBall 2009 | Love & Devotion will illuminate The Fairmont Royal York with snowflake-themed décor by go-to event designers **theideashop**. Entertainment chair **Molly Johnson** has orchestrated a sparkling entertainment line up, featuring **Divine Brown**, along with ambient fusion musicians **Eccodek** and dance troupe **Hit and Run**. The evening will also feature a silent auction, with lavish prizes including celebrity-chef catered private functions, high-end décor items and romantic travel packages. Last year's event netted over \$250,000 for Casey House community programs. Get your tickets now, and demonstrate your LOVE & DEVOTION in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

**WHAT:** SnowBall 2009 | Love & Devotion, featuring The Casey Awards  
**WHEN:** Saturday, February 28, 2009, 6:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** The Fairmont Royal York  
**TICKETS:** \$300 individual / \$3,000 table of 10 / \$5,000 corporate table with logo  
For tickets, please call 416-962-4040 x236  
or email [heart@caseyhouse.on.ca](mailto:heart@caseyhouse.on.ca)

**Event co-chairs:** Brian Dalfen & John R. Fortney  
**The Casey Awards chair:** Pearse Murray  
**Entertainment chair:** Molly Johnson

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**Presenting sponsor:** BMO Financial Group

**Platinum sponsor:** theideashop

**Gold sponsors:** Polar Ice Vodka, Wyndham Estate Wines

**Presenting print sponsor:** The Globe & Mail

**About Casey House:**

*Founded in 1988, Casey House is the first free-standing HIV/AIDS hospice in Canada. A unique, compassionate model of care has been evolving since that time, allowing Casey House, a specialty hospital with community programming, to deliver on its mission to provide exemplary treatment, support and palliative care for people living with HIV/AIDS. Approximately 8,000 people and their families have received exceptional care and support through Casey House services on over 90,000 occasions since 1988. [www.caseyhouse.ca](http://www.caseyhouse.ca)*

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**For more information or to arrange for an interview:**

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