



## **T.J. Martell Foundation *Women of Influence Awards* Raises \$100,000 for Cancer Research**



**New York, New York (May 5, 2014)** - On Thursday, May 1, 2014, **The T.J. Martell Foundation** for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS Research hosted the second annual *Women of Influence Awards* at New York's renowned Essex House at Central Park South and raised \$100,000. Four extraordinary women were honored at the sold out event including Co-host of the fourth hour of NBC's Today Show Hoda Kotb, famed New York fashion designer Randi Rahm, Z100 Radio's Sharon Dastur and Founder and Chairperson of Radio One, Inc. Cathy Hughes. The awards luncheon was hosted by radio personality and actress Robin Quivers who talked to the guests about own very personal journey of surviving cancer. Also in attendance were Hoda Kotb's co-host Kathie Lee Gifford, TV personality LuAnn de Lesseps, Tony Award and Drama Desk Award nominee Kerry Butler, actress Megan Sikora, the off-Broadway "Under My Skin" production team of lead producer Marla McNally Phillips, director Kirsten Sanderson and co-writer Prudence Fraser.

(L to RL Randi Rahm and Cathy Hughes)

The T.J. Martell Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Laura Heatherly welcomed the crowd and gave an update to the work being done across the nation in an effort to find a cure for leukemia, cancer and AIDs. T.J. Martell Foundation Board President Marcie Allen and President of MAC Presents was in attendance.



(L to R: Megan Sikora, Randi Rahm, Jetta, Hoda Kotb, Laura Heatherly, Kathie Lee Gifford, Sharon Dastur, Robin Quivers, Kerry Butler)



After a silent auction, reception and a stop on the pink carpet, the awards luncheon got underway at 12:30pm. Music performer Jetta gave the audience a mesmerizing performance and guest speaker Gillian Horsham took to the stage as part of the entire afternoon's event. Each honoree spoke from the podium and reminded the guests to support cancer research while encouraging the crowd with their own very personal stories that included surviving cancer and the support the T.J. Martell Foundation offers to patients.

(left: Hoda Kotb and Kathie Lee Gifford on the pink carpet)

**ABOUT THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION:**

The T.J. Martell Foundation is the music industry's largest foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding cures for leukemia, cancer and AIDS. The Foundation, headquartered in New York, is a national 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was founded in 1975 by music industry executive Tony Martell and his colleagues in loving memory of his son T.J., who died of leukemia. The Foundation has provided more than \$260 million dollars for

research that supports top hospitals in the United States. For more information click on the T.J. Martell Foundation

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**PRESS CONTACT:**

Caroline Galloway

M2M PR

(440) 591-3807

[caroline@m2mpr.com](mailto:caroline@m2mpr.com)