



PRC honors Sylvester's legacy at gala

By Cynthia Laird
September 28, 2017

The Positive Resource Center will honor the legacy of Sylvester at "Mighty Real," its gala set for Friday, October 6 at the Four Seasons Hotel, 757 Market Street in San Francisco.

The evening begins with a cocktail reception at 6, followed by a dinner program, live auction, and after-party with DJ Lamont.

The agency is marking 30 years of service; last year it merged with Baker Places and the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Sylvester James was a gay disco superstar from San Francisco. After his death due to AIDS-related complications in 1988, royalties from his music ended up going to AEF and Project Open Hand after a yearslong wait and legal complications. Now that PRC oversees AEF, it has taken on the mantle of honoring Sylvester.

Actor and philanthropist Sheryl Lee Ralph will receive PRC's inaugural Sylvester Community Pillar Award. "Sylvester always spoke out and used his voice to encourage others to love themselves," Ralph, a straight ally, said in a statement. "I lost my friend Sylvester far too soon to AIDS. However, he remains in our memory, and is still very much alive because his music lives."

Another honoree will be Tom Nolan, a gay man who's the former executive director of Project Open Hand. Nolan, who will receive the Vanguard Leadership Award, also used to be a San Mateo County supervisor and served on the board of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency.

Gilead Sciences will receive the Keystone Service Award. The biopharmaceutical company has released 23 marketed products, including those for HIV/AIDS and liver disease, that benefit millions of people. It also has an access program to make its medications available to those who could otherwise not afford them.

Tickets for the gala are \$250 and can be purchased online at www.positiveresource.org/mightyreal.