



Trickle Up Gala honors Emerging Markets Charity Benefit Committee and raises over \$800,000 to help women overcome extreme poverty

NEW YORK, April 25, 2017 – Trickle Up hosted more than 350 guests and raised more than \$800,000 at its annual Gala on Monday, April 17, 2017 at Cipriani Wall Street. The gala honored the Emerging Markets Charity Benefit Committee, recipient of Trickle Up's 2017 Leet Humanitarian Award, accepted by Jonathan Murno, Director of Research at the Emerging Markets Traders Association.

The event featured Christine Lahti, an Oscar, Emmy, and Golden Globe winning actress and director, who has been an advocate for the rights of women and girls for nearly 40 years. In her opening address, she commented, "Bringing untold stories of women to life is what drives me as a storyteller. Sharing their experiences helps us understand vulnerability and power, determination and resilience. In shining a light on some of the world's most vulnerable women, Trickle Up reveals – and amplifies – the power of every woman to drive change."

Trickle Up focuses on the toughest challenges in global poverty alleviation: to reach the poorest, most vulnerable people and create trajectories towards financial independence. Since its founding in 1979, Trickle Up has lifted over one million people worldwide out of extreme poverty and into a better quality of life. Through government, corporate, and NGO partnerships, Trickle Up leverages resources to strategically scale programs, bringing power and promise where most needed.

The Leet Humanitarian Award is named for Glen and Mildred Robbins Leet, who founded Trickle Up in 1979. It is presented annually to those who've made exemplary contributions to the achievement of Trickle Up's mission to eradicate poverty in its most extreme form by reaching the poorest and most vulnerable people living in extreme poverty. Past recipients of the award have included the Ford Foundation, venture capitalist and former Trickle Up board member Alan J. Patricof, and former Trickle Up board chair Wendy Gordon Rockefeller.

In presenting the award, Trickle Up board member Joyce Chang remarked, "As emerging markets develop, it is important that the promise of economic growth leaves no one behind. Over the past 15 years, the Emerging Markets Charity Benefit has raised more than \$6 million for charities working in emerging markets around the world."

During the event, attendees were brought into the lives of Trickle Up participants in West Bengal, India, through a series of videos. They introduced the audience to Arpita Mandal, demonstrated the power of collective action in her savings group Baba Loknath, and revealed the amazing potential of partnerships to take Trickle Up's work to the next level. As Trickle Up West Africa Regional Representative Yéréfólo Mallé noted, "In 2010, Trickle Up was helping about 8,000 women start businesses. This year, we will help nearly 50,000 people in some of the poorest communities in the world. You may wonder – how is this possible? Well, we didn't do it alone. We forged global partnerships that help us reach many more of the world's poorest people than we ever could on our own."

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About Trickle Up

Trickle Up has been a pioneer graduating people out of extreme poverty, and since 1979, has helped more than one million of the poorest, most vulnerable people achieve greater economic self-sufficiency. Trickle Up works through local partners and in partnership with large institutions and governments to provide women and other vulnerable populations with business training and financial education, seed capital to start or expand a business, regular coaching, and integrates them into savings groups. Trickle Up works in rural India, Africa, and the Americas. To learn more, visit www.trickleup.org.