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City Harvest Raises \$1,355,500 to Help Feed NYC'S Hungry at Its *Practical Magic Ball*

New York, NY – The bidding was fast and furious over once-in-a-lifetime auction prizes as City Harvest, the world's first and New York City's only food rescue organization, commemorated its 25th Anniversary year at the *Practical Magic Ball*. The benefit, held on April 18th at Cipriani 42nd Street, raised a record \$ 1,355,500 to help feed hungry New Yorkers

The auction's top-selling package, at \$50,000, was a dinner party for 25 prepared in the winner's home by 4-star chef Eric Ripert of Le Bernardin. Two tickets to the star-studded post-Academy Award Vanity Fair Oscar Party sold for \$26,000. Rachael Ray, who hosted the event, encouraged bidding on one auction item from the stage: a "Rachael Ray Extravaganza," including a walk-on appearance on a Potluck Thursday edition of the *Rachael Ray* show for one lucky bidder and tickets for three friends – with airfare and hotel accommodations for out-of-towners as well as dinner at a New York City restaurant spontaneously thrown in by Ray to generate a higher bid of \$25,000.

Pam and Andrew Kaufmann, Heather and Steven Mnuchin, Linda Slotnick Petrone and Tom Petrone, and Susan and Gary Rosenbach chaired the event. The evening honored Tom Guba, a long time board member with the "Star of the City" award presented by City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. Bebe Neuwirth, Susan Lucci, and Susie Castillo were on hand as celebrity guest presenters.

Established in 1994, the *Practical Magic Ball* was designed to raise awareness and much needed funds to help feed hungry men, women and children in New York City. The event raises money to support City Harvest's commitment to feeding more than 260,000 hungry New Yorkers each week.