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Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens welcomed 650 guests to 15th Annual *Hat Day* Luncheon

I. Lorraine Thomas honored as recipient of the 12th annual Ann Isaly Wolfe Award

(May 1, 2015—Columbus, Ohio) A sold-out, record-high crowd of 650 hat-adorned guests gathered this afternoon under a grand marquee at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

Les Chapeaux dans le Jardin, also known as Hat Day, is one of Columbus' premier social traditions and the Conservatory's signature spring fundraising event. The luncheon features a cocktail hour, cuisine by Cameron Mitchell Catering and a live auction.

The 15th annual event was chaired by Cathy M. Lyttle. Kristyn Hartman and Chris Bradley, WBNS 10TV, served as emcees for the afternoon.

Proceeds from this year's event are expected to net \$300,000 to benefit the Conservatory's education programs. Hat Day has raised \$3.3M since it began in 2001.

The 12th annual Ann Isaly Wolfe Award was presented to I. Lorraine Thomas. Given each year in honor of its first recipient, this highly anticipated award recognizes individuals or organizations that have provided longtime leadership, service, or financial support to the Conservatory.

"Thank you for being here and your continued support of the Conservatory. Let's keep growing," Thomas said as Bruce Harkey, executive director of Franklin Park Conservatory, presented the award.

Past Ann Isaly Wolfe Award winners include:

- 2014 Beth Fisher
- 2013 Beth Henry
- 2012 Liz Fox
- 2011 Paige Crane
- 2010 Barbara Trueman
- 2009 Beth and Doug Morgan
- 2008 Pamela Farber Thomas
- 2007 Mo Meuse
- 2006 *William H. Davis, Dorothy M. Davis and William C. Davis Foundation,*
and Bill and Jackie Wells
Paul B. Redman
- 2005 Cherie Lucks

2004 Ann Isaly Wolfe

Presenting Sponsor of Hat Day 2015 was the Davis Foundation. Cocktail Party Sponsor was Nationwide. Supporting Sponsor was Worthington Industries. Media Sponsors were 10TV and Capital Style. Other sponsors included I. Lorraine Thomas, Huntington, J.P.Morgan, L Brands, OhioHealth, and Tim Hortons.

High resolution photos are available by request.

About Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers botanical collections, art and nature-based exhibitions, plant shows, and educational programs for all ages. Situated in an 88-acre urban park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House and 83,000 square feet of glasshouses, classrooms, and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns a signature collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly. *Light Raiment II*, a permanent installation by internationally recognized light artist James Turrell, illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.

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