

For Immediate Release

May 17, 2011



CONTACTS:

For Atlanta Pride Committee: J.P. Sheffield / 770.491.8633 / JPSheffield@atlantapride.org
For Positive Impact: Chandler Bearden / 404.589.9040/ Chandler.Bearden@positiveimpact-atl.org
For East Point Possums: Rick Westbrook / 404.226.6843 / gagayactivist@yahoo.com

The East Point Possums Show. It's About Community

EAST POINT, GA- The Chuck Jenkins Foundation is preparing for its 14th Annual East Point Possums show, scheduled for Saturday, June 18th, 2011 from 8-11p. The event opens at 7p- early arrival is recommended.

This year's event will once again benefit Atlanta Pride. New this year, sharing the billing with Atlanta's favorite festival organizers, is local HIV education and prevention program, M.I.S.T.E.R., a department of Positive Impact.

Chuck Jenkins Foundation spokesperson and Possums co-founder, John Jeffrey, said of the charity pairing, "We couldn't be more pleased to have 2 of Atlanta's most well respected organizations both benefitting from this event!"

Chuck Jenkins Foundation co-founder and Possums Matriarch, Rick Westbrook, said of the event, "We have people from all over the region come out for the show – it really is a great showcase for the inclusive community we have in East Point." He also noted, "This year, with adding Positive Impact as a benefactor along with our friends at Atlanta Pride, we continue to grow and do what we've always tried to do with this event- increase exposure for our beneficiaries, serve our community in a unique way, and showcase the amazing work that our non-profit partners do for all of us."

When asked why they chose to partner with the Chuck Jenkins Foundation for the Possums Show, M.I.S.T.E.R.'s Community Outreach Prevention Specialist, Chandler Bearden responded, "Who wouldn't want to be associated with one of Atlanta's most renowned group of caring activists? With a name like the Possums, you know they've always got something good a cookin'. MISTER's goal is to reach all members and aspects of the local Gay, Bi, and Transgendered communities. This includes leathermen, jocks, fashionistas, home-makers, transitioning male to female and yes, DRAG QUEENS! This is our community! The Possums are a glowing example of how these members of our community can stand up, proud and scream "we are still here" and gain a laugh and a dollar with no contempt from outside viewers. We, MISTER, strive to convey a message that is caring, non-judgmental, and sex-positive in order to encourage people to be themselves and do what they want—but to do it wisely and safely. Who better to help us carry that message so strongly and solidly than an organization developed and dedicated to community support?"

Chuck Jenkins Foundation and East Point Possums co-founder, Chesley Thurman stated, "This is truly a community event. The show is designed so that every penny of the proceeds goes to benefit the charity for that year, or in this case- 'charities.' Atlanta Pride, M.I.S.T.E.R. and the East Point Possums volunteers will work to get everything donated - from the stage to signage and everything in between. Sponsors offset other costs; performers donate their time; all the tips are pooled and given directly to the non-profit organizations." Thurman continued, "Atlanta Pride is a great organization that everyone is familiar with, and we hope to introduce more people to M.I.S.T.E.R. This event is an easy way to be supportive – just bring a bunch of dollar bills and have a good time with your friends!"

Atlanta Pride Executive Director, JP Sheffield said, "We are thrilled to be involved with this program for the 3rd year in a row! And this year, we are happy to welcome Positive Impact's M.I.S.T.E.R. program to this fantastic event."

Sheffield added, "This is the kind of community event that is the cornerstone of Atlanta Pride. We serve the community, but in order for us to do that effectively, we need the community to support us, and this partnership with both M.I.S.T.E.R. and the Possums does so in such a fun and entertaining way. We hope everyone comes out for this great event!"

More details about the 14th Annual East Point Possums Show continue to be made available right up to show time. In the meantime- mark your calendars for June 18th and plan to support all of these outstanding

###

About the Atlanta Pride Committee: The main purpose of the APC is to promote unity, visibility and self-esteem among lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender persons and to promote a positive image in the Atlanta area and throughout the Southeastern United States through community activities and services.

The main mission of the APC is to provide lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender persons with cultural and educational programs and activities which enhance mental and physical health, provide social support, and foster an awareness of the past and present contributions of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender persons, through community activities and services, including an annual Pride event.

About M.I.S.T.E.R.: A program of Positive Impact, it is designed to be a one-stop resource for gay and bisexual men to increase awareness of available local resources and services for gay and bi men, and to promote social and sexual health in the gay and bisexual community of metropolitan Atlanta. MISTER provides free one-on-one risk reduction counseling services for men who are having high-risk sexual encounters and wish to learn how to reduce some of those risks and also free HIV testing and STD screening. MISTER also has a strong relationship with the community through active outreach and community involvement.

Positive Impact's mission is to provide culturally competent prevention and mental health services to individuals affected by HIV by providing no-cost mental health, substance abuse treatment and psychiatric care along with prevention services

About the Chuck Jenkins Foundation: 4 friends from East Point, GA started the volunteer group, The East Point Possums. They began performing in drag in 1998 rather informally, but as their supporters grew they saw it as a way to raise money for their favorite charities. For the past thirteen years, they have raised tens of thousands of dollars. After more than a decade they are responsible for one of the most well attended drag shows in the southeast. One of the 4 founding members passed away in 2004, and now the group performs in his honor. New this year, The East Point Possums officially formed their 501-c3 organization in his name. The Chuck Jenkins Foundation was established to continue the legacy of supporting worthy local nonprofits.

For more information about the Atlanta Pride Committee, please visit: www.atlantapride.org

For more information about Positive Impact, please visit: www.positiveimpact-atl.org

For more information about The East Point Possums, please visit: www.eastpointpossums.com