

6TH ANNUAL  
**NASHVILLE**  
*Honors Gala.*

**For Immediate Release**

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**T.J. Martell Foundation Announces 2014 Nashville Honors Gala Honorees**  
***Mark Bloom, Beth Dortch Franklin, Scott Hiebert, Mike Dungan, Dale Morris to be honored***  
***at 6<sup>th</sup> annual Honors Gala, March 10, 2014***

NASHVILLE, Tenn. December 17, 2013 – The T.J. Martell Foundation announced today its honorees for the sixth annual Nashville Honors Gala. The gala will be held at the Nashville Omni Hotel on March 10, 2014.

This year's high profile affair will recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the music industry, the Nashville economy and medical research. Honorees are Nashville real estate visionary Mark Bloom, music industry icons Dale Morris and Mike Dungan, entrepreneur Beth Dortch Franklin and cancer research pioneer Scott Hiebert.

The T.J. Martell Foundation's Nashville Honors Gala is a high-profile festive affair, which brings together celebrities with business, medical, sports and entertainment industry leaders to raise awareness and funds for innovative cancer research at 11 top research hospitals in the United States including the Frances Williams Preston Laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

The March 10 event is invitation-only and begins at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception and premiere silent auction. The festivities continue at 7:00 p.m. with dinner, the awards presentation, outstanding musical performances and a live auction.

"We are thrilled to make the announcement of our 6<sup>th</sup> year Honors Gala award recipients. These people embody the spirit of what our organization believes in and have played instrumental roles in their

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industries as well as the city of Nashville. This event benefits a great cause and has been an incredible experience each year,” said T.J. Martell’s Director of Strategic Development, Tinti Moffat.

The co-chairs for the 2013 event include Danielle Bouharoun, Wells-Fargo Private Banking; Ree Buchanan, Wrensong Publishing ; and Mark Wright, Show Dog Music.

Table sponsorships range from \$11,500 to \$100,000. Individual tickets are \$1,000. Ads honoring the honorees may also be purchased in the commemorative journal. For tickets, journal ads and sponsorship information, email Tinti Moffat at [tmoffat@tjmartell.com](mailto:tmoffat@tjmartell.com) or visit [www.honorsgala.tjmartell.org](http://www.honorsgala.tjmartell.org) .

**Mark Bloom will receive the Spirit of Nashville Award.** More than 20 years ago, Mark Bloom and two friends had a vision for Nashville. He saw the city growing, downtown in particular, and decided to invest in a piece of property on Lower Broadway. Today, Corner Partnership, LLC, which Bloom controls with Ronnie Scott and Larry Papel, has become one of Nashville’s most successful and visionary real estate development groups. The partnership has invested in hotels, restaurants, high-rise condos and tracts upon tracts of raw land.

Bloom’s real estate prowess extends beyond investing in boom areas before prices rise. He is a forward thinker who creates Nashville “firsts.” As transplants from cities like New York and Los Angeles continue to pour into Nashville, Bloom was one of the first to see the need for “super-luxury” urban living, and continues to develop such brands throughout downtown. Among Corner Partnership’s holdings are Hilton Nashville Downtown, Union Station Hotel, Midtown’s Adelia and prime sites in the Gulch, East Nashville and Lower Broadway.

In addition to his endeavors with Corner Partnership, LLC, Bloom is a Senior Vice President of Investments with UBS Financial Services, Inc., and spearheaded the municipal bond department at J.C. Bradford & Co.

**Beth Dortch Franklin will receive the Lifetime Humanitarian Award.** Beth Dortch Franklin began her transportation career in the mid 1980s with her family’s company, Star Transportation. Despite limited experience in trucking, she turned a struggling family company toward the road to success. Franklin created a team of talented associates to help guide the growth and direction of Star Transportation.

In 1999, while Mrs. Franklin was turning Star into a profitable enterprise, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. For the first time since taking the company’s reigns, she was forced to take time off and release the daily management to her executives. According to Franklin, her battle with cancer taught her volumes about being a trusting and effective CEO. She remains cancer free and has spent the past 7 years actively working with the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC) and the Tennessee Trucking Foundation (TTF). She continues to serve on the Board of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center and still works with the Tennessee Trucking Foundation. Both passions reflect Franklin’s “love for life.”

After serving as CEO of Star for more than 20 years, Franklin achieved the challenging goal of a successful transition. Having grown Star Transportation to 850 employees and over 600 tractors Franklin's family approved the sale of the company for \$100 million dollars. Every employee was offered the opportunity to continue their employment and Franklin agreed to exit the "for profit" transportation industry for a period of seven years.

Mrs. Franklin is currently adding a new career to her business days that will allow her to continue her work with VICC and the TTF, among a handful of other non-profits. Exciting details about her new career will be shared next year.

**Scott Hiebert, PhD, will receive the Medical Research Advancement Award.** Dr. Scott Hiebert's career focuses on research advances in the area of hematology and malignant blood cancers. He is a leader in national programs funded by the National Institutes of Health and numerous other foundations. He also serves as Associate Director of Cancer Research at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

**Mike Dungan will receive the Frances Williams Preston Lifetime Achievement Award.** Mike Dungan is Chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group Nashville, the largest music company in the country music business. A native of Cincinnati, he has worked in the music business since he was 16 years old, getting his start doing odd jobs in a local record store. In 1979, Dungan began his label career as a pop promotion rep for RCA, working in the Cincinnati, Detroit, and then Minneapolis markets. In 1987, he took a sales position with RCA and Arista Records parent company, BMG. Two years later, Arista Records hired him as its Director of Marketing for the Midwest. In 1990, Dungan moved to the newly formed Arista Nashville label to head up Sales and Marketing, later rising to the post of SVP and General Manager. While at Arista, he was instrumental in the careers of Brooks & Dunn, Alan Jackson, Pam Tillis, and Diamond Rio and was responsible for signing Brad Paisley. In 2000, Dungan was named President of EMI Music's Capitol Records Nashville, and over the next 12 years, helped to build that company to enormous success, with the Capitol label being named Billboard Magazine's country label of the year again in 2012, its 7th straight year to win that award.

In May of 2012, Dungan shifted to the Universal Music Group as Chairman and CEO. Shortly after that time, it was announced that Universal would purchase EMI, reuniting Dungan with his old roster at Capitol. That label group is now home to 32 artists, including Luke Bryan, Keith Urban, Lady Antebellum, Little Big Town, George Strait, Eric Church, Darius Rucker, Sugarland, Jennifer Nettles, Alan Jackson, Shania Twain, Dierks Bentley, Gary Allan, Vince Gill, Billy Currington, and new breakout artist Kacey Musgraves.

**Dale Morris will receive the Tony Martell Entertainment Achievement Award.** When music business icon Dale Morris first came to Nashville, there were few record companies and even fewer booking and artist management companies. He took advantage of the latter two, and over the last 40+ years, his management and booking clients have toured virtually every city with a stage, won every award there is to win, and sold enough records, tapes and CDs to fill a stadium.

Throughout the course of his career, Morris has handled the careers of ALABAMA, Kenny Chesney, Jake Owen, Big & Rich and Martina McBride amongst others. As well, his company, Morris Light and Sound,

provides full service production which integrates audio, video and lighting services for live events and tours throughout North America - from Kenny Chesney's stadium shows to Presidential rallies and more.

Most recently, Dale has partnered in a resorts and entertainment company that currently includes The Deadwood Mountain Grand and the 33,000 square-foot log Fontanel Mansion.

#### **About the T.J. Martell Foundation**

The T.J. Martell Foundation is the music industry's largest foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding cures for leukemia, cancer and AIDS. The T.J. Martell Foundation was founded in 1975 by music industry executive Tony Martell and his colleagues, in loving memory of his son, T.J., who died of leukemia. The Foundation has provided more than \$250 million for research at top hospitals in the United States. The Foundation sources and supports early-stage research projects aimed at developing more effective clinical treatments for patients which otherwise might not be funded. In Nashville, the T.J. Martell Foundation funds the Frances Williams Preston laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. For additional information, visit [www.TJMartell.org](http://www.TJMartell.org).

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