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**Mitchell Museum of the American Indian's
Annual Benefit "A Decade of Independence" March 19**

Feb 5, 2016, EVANSTON, IL—The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian will host its annual benefit "A Decade of Independence" at the Wilmette Golf Club on Saturday, March 19 from 6:00-9:30pm. This year's event will feature music by Mark Cleveland *Cherokee*, elegant cuisine, a silent auction, grand prize raffle drawing, and a presentation highlighting the successes of the past decade since the museum separated from Kendall College in 2006. Tickets are \$135 per person. Tables that seat 8 are also available for \$1,000 (\$125 per person.)

Proceeds from the annual benefit will support the Mitchell Museum's mission to promote and share a deeper understanding and respect of Native American peoples. Since 1977, the Mitchell Museum has worked to dispel the misconceptions and stereotypes that fuel discrimination against Native American peoples today, while also revealing the beauty and inspiration behind their unique genre of art.

"Our annual benefit is a wonderful way for community members, board and staff to come together in support of our mission," said Kathleen McDonald, Executive Director of the Mitchell Museum. "As we celebrate this ten year milestone as an independent museum, and lead into our 40th anniversary celebration next year, we reflect on the museum's history, the people who made it possible, and the fabulous collections, meaningful exhibits and stimulating programming that will be available to future generations for years to come."

Among this year's silent auction items are tickets to a variety of theater and sporting events, limited edition and one of a kind art pieces, custom jewelry, restaurant and spa packages, and unique handmade clothing items. The evening will conclude with the grand prize raffle drawing of a beautiful handmade Lakota Star Quilt and a \$500 Visa gift card. The winner need not be present to win, and raffle tickets are available for purchase now up until the time of the drawing for \$20 each or \$100 for six.

To purchase tickets for both the benefit and grand prize raffle, contact the Mitchell Museum at (847)475-1030 or email visitor services at rsvp@mitchellmuseum.org.

The event is underwritten in part through the generous support of Northwestern University, John J. Cahill, Inc., Jennifer N. Pritzker, Tom and Sue Laue, The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts Program, Susanne Sharrow-Christopher of Prudential Advisors, Barb Goodman and Seth Weinberger, and First Bank and Trust of Evanston.

The Mitchell Museum is one of only a handful of museums in the country that focuses exclusively on the art, history and culture of American Indian and First Nation peoples throughout the United States and Canada. In 2012, The Mitchell Museum was named "Best Museum of The North Shore: Up and Comer" by *Make it Better* magazine, won the Superior award by the Illinois Association of Museums and was named a national finalist by the American Association of State and Local History award program. The *Chicago Tribune* named the Mitchell Museum one of its top 10 museums for 2015.

For more information about The Mitchell Museum of The American Indian, visit www.mitchellmuseum.org, call 847-475-1030 or see our verified Facebook page. The museum is located in Evanston, Illinois at 3001 Central Street. It is open Tuesday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday- Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students and children and Free for Mitchell Museum members and Tribal members.

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