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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**Damien Center to host Grande Masquerade on October 19**

*Event raises vital funds to support the Center's mission to end the spread of HIV in Indiana*

*Emmy-Award winning TV personality Carson Kressley to Emcee the event*

**INDIANAPOLIS** - Damien Center, Indiana's oldest and largest AIDS service provider will hold their 32<sup>nd</sup> annual fundraising event Grande Masquerade: Carnevale in Arancione, on **Saturday, October 19, 2019** at the JW Marriott, 10 S. West St., Indianapolis. The Italian-themed masquerade ball will feature dinner, live entertainment, and a silent auction. Grande Masquerade has become one of Indianapolis' premier philanthropic events drawing more than 600 attendees and raises vital funds allowing Damien Center to continue offering its one-stop-shop approach to HIV prevention and care free of charge.

Guests attending Grande Masquerade will also hear from Emmy-Award winning TV personality Carson Kressley, who will emcee the event. Kressley is an Emmy-Award winning TV personality, style expert, fashion designer, and New York Times best-selling author who became a breakout star for Bravo TV's groundbreaking show, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy." Kressley uses his celebrity to advance different concerns such as The Trevor Project, The Human Rights Campaign, AIDS WALK, and the Al D. Rodriguez Liver Foundation.

**Who:** -Carson Kressley, Emmy-Award winning TV personality  
-Alan Witche, president and CEO, Damien Center

**When:** Saturday, October 19, 2019  
6 p.m. – VIP reception  
7:30 p.m. – Dinner and main event

**Where:** JW Marriott, 10 S. West St., Indianapolis, IN  
JW Grand Ballroom (Third floor)

**Tickets:**

- \$175 for general admission
- \$250 for VIP reception that includes entertainment, complimentary cocktails, and early access to the silent auction.
- Guests may also purchase a table for 10 at general admission of \$1,750, VIP at \$2,500
- To purchase tickets visit: [www.damien.org/tix](http://www.damien.org/tix).

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**About Damien Center:**

Damien Center is Indiana's oldest and largest AIDS service organization, and leads the effort to prevent the spread of HIV. The Center opened in 1987 and offers a one-stop-shop model of care that includes preventive, supportive, and medical services that empowers people in Central Indiana affected by HIV/AIDS to move forward each day with dignity so they may live abundant and productive lives. Damien Center believes passionately in the dignity and worth of every person who seeks their services and strives to be a safe and welcoming place so that no barriers separate people from the services they need to prolong and enhance their lives. For more information visit: <http://www.damien.org> or follow them on Twitter at @DamienCenter or like them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/thedamiencenter/>