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**LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH SERVICES CELEBRATES
40th ANNIVERSARY
*Broadway Star Brian Stokes Mitchell To Headline
Anniversary Gala on Saturday, April 25, 2009***

CINCINNATI, OH – January __, 2009 – Lighthouse Youth Services announces Tony Award winning Broadway star Brian Stokes Mitchell will be the guest artist at ***The Great “Light” Way 40th Anniversary Gala*** on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati.

Lighthouse Youth Services began 40 years ago as a single group home for girls. Today, Lighthouse serves more than 4,000 children, youth and families in need annually. “The gala event will celebrate Lighthouse’s 40 years of service to our community – we will also take this most appropriate opportunity to honor the more than 50 “Beacon of Light” honorees who have been recognized over the years for their dedication to the welfare of children and families,” said Bob Mecum, president and CEO of Lighthouse.

Dubbed “The Last Leading Man” by *The New York Times*, Brian Stokes Mitchell has enjoyed a rich and varied career on Broadway, television and film, along with appearances in the great American concert halls. His musical versatility has kept him in demand by some of the country’s finest conductors and orchestras. Stokes is a three-time Tony nominee and Tony Award winner for *Kiss Me, Kate*. In 2005, he headlined the Carnegie Hall concert presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *South Pacific* with Reba McEntire and Alec Baldwin. The concert aired on PBS.

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All the previous Lighthouse Youth Services honorees, from 1996 through 2008, will be recognized at ***The Great "Light" Way 40th Anniversary Gala*** at the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati. Serving as Lighthouse's major annual fundraiser, the black tie event starts at 6:30 p.m. with a reception; dinner at 7:30 p.m.; and the performance by Brian Stokes Mitchell will follow. The evening also includes a raffle and live auction to benefit Lighthouse Youth Services. For more information about the awards dinner or to purchase tickets, please visit on-line at www.lys.org or call 513-487-7109.

About Lighthouse Youth Services

Since 1969 Lighthouse Youth Services has received national recognition as an innovator in services for families in crisis; housing for homeless teens; group homes for young people who need a therapeutic environment; education, counseling and training for youth and families; and foster care for abandoned and abused children. LYS operates the areas only direct access around-the-clock sanctuary for homeless, abused and neglected youth and a juvenile corrections program with double the success rate of traditional institutions. Lighthouse Youth Services is funded in part by the City of Cincinnati, is a United Way Agency Partner, and meets Better Business Wise Giving Alliance Standards. For more information, visit on-line at www.lys.org.

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