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Jamie Brewer, Television Actress with Down syndrome, to Be Honored at ACDS Annual Gala

*To Be Recognized for Her Role as Actress, Advocate and
Role Model for People with Developmental Disabilities*

Long Island, NY, New York, NY - October 6, 2014 — Ms. Jamie Brewer, a promising young television actress, will be honored at the ACDS Annual Gala, to be held at the Garden City Hotel on Saturday, October 25, 2014.

ACDS provides lifelong resources to individuals with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities. This year's "Up, Up and Away" Gala theme highlights the abilities of those with Down syndrome and the endless possibilities they can achieve.

The festivities will begin with a cocktail hour at 7:00 pm, followed by dinner, the presentation to Ms. Brewer and dancing, as well as live and silent fundraising auctions. Carolina Leid of WABC Eyewitness News will emcee the event.

Jamie is best known for her roles in the FX network television series *American Horror Story*, playing the roles of Adelaide "Addie" Langdon in season one and the clairvoyant witch Nan in season three. She has also appeared in the television series *Southland* and is slated to return for the fourth season of *American Horror Story*.

On October 16, 2014 Jamie will be receiving the RJ Mitte Diversity Award at the Media Access Awards in Beverly Hills. The event honors individuals in show business who promote awareness of the disability experience, access for people with disabilities, and the accurate depiction of characters with disabilities.

In addition to her acting career, Ms. Brewer is a tireless advocate for people like herself with Down syndrome. She is involved with several organizations including the National Down Syndrome Congress, American Association of People with Disabilities, Down Syndrome in the Arts and Media (DSiAM), and Civitan International – a nationwide association of community service clubs that help people with developmental disabilities.

Ms. Brewer is the youngest person with Down syndrome to be elected president of the ARC Fort Bend Chapter. She has served on the State of Texas ARC Board and was elected Board Treasurer. While serving on the Texas ARC Governmental Affairs Committee, she persuaded the Texas state senate to pass a law abolishing the word “retarded” and replace it with the term “intellectual developmental disability” on all state legislation in order to improve the recognition of people with disabilities.

Ms. Brewer is also studying to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at a community college in Southern California, where she lives.

“We are thrilled to honor Jamie Brewer at this year’s Annual Gala,” says ACDS Executive Director Michael Smith. “Jamie is living proof of how individuals with Down syndrome can lead fulfilling and rewarding lives. She is both a role model and inspiration, not just for those with developmental disabilities, but for all of us. As the ‘Up, Up and Away’ theme of our Gala shows, there’s really no limit to what those with developmental disabilities can achieve.”

“I am honored to receive this recognition from ACDS,” says Ms. Brewer. “I’m amazed about the wide range of services ACDS provides to people with developmental disabilities, and at the caring and empowering attitude of their staff, board members and everyone affiliated with the organization. They provide the hope and encouragement for people with intellectual disabilities to reach for the stars, and to achieve their dreams, just like everybody else.”

For more information on the ACDS Annual Gala, contact Laurie Schaefer, ACDS, at 516.933.4700 x 124.

ABOUT ACDS

Located in Plainview, NY, ACDS is dedicated to providing lifetime resources of exceptional quality, innovation and inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities and their families. ACDS currently serves over 1,000 children and adults with services that

include Early Intervention and preschool special education programs; respite and recreation programs for children, teens and adults; adult Medicaid service coordination; and eight supervised group homes in Nassau County. ACDS has provided programs and services in Long Island since 1966. For more information, please visit www.acds.org or call 516-933-4700.

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