

Dear Friend of GLAD,

Recently my dear friend Marlee Matlin was presented with the "Shattering the Glass Walls" award at GLAD's Sixth Annual House of Blues Brunch. Marlee's spunk and natural instinct for success are an inspiration to me.

I remember the day when young Marlee came up to me and told me she wanted to be an actress, just like me. *"Marlee, sweetheart, you can be whatever you want to be. Just follow it here--in your heart--and your dreams will come true. Don't let anything stand in your way."*

Marlee is a terrific ambassador for the deaf and hard of hearing community. She and I share a belief in service and we get the same personal satisfaction from serving the community. The end of the year presents an opportunity for all of us to evaluate our lives and throw ourselves into causes that we believe in.

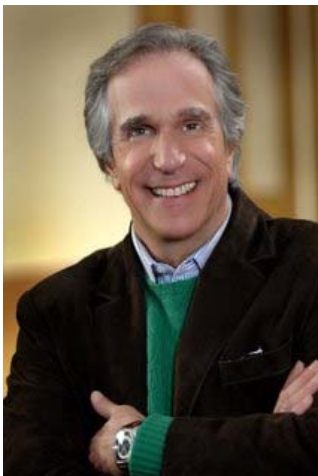
My work as an actor, producer, husband, father and children's book author has allowed me to see the community through a different lens and I understand the impact of the unsung work that GLAD does. GLAD is such an undervalued organization because it has to answer to a different sort of standard. Its progress is not measured in terms of its dollars, but rather in terms of the lives that it changes.



Marlee Matlin, Fabian Sanchez and Jamie Lee Curtis at the GLAD Brunch

I am grateful that there are organizations like GLAD that keep plugging in on a daily basis to make lives just a little better. It's easy to take GLAD for granted, but with the recent ten percent budget cut implemented by the State of California, dire times are here. It is our responsibility as citizens to step up and donate to GLAD as a way of thanking the organization for its terrific service to our community over the years. With your help, these programs have a chance to survive.

It is time for us to show GLAD that we value their commitment in maintaining their services for the citizens of Southern California and beyond. Their commitment to the shared goals of equal opportunity, career development, dignity and respect for the deaf and hard of hearing community is exemplary. Its work in advocacy, employment and interpreter services, health education, including HIV/AIDS awareness and Breast Cancer research, and senior housing is invaluable.



GLAD relies on the generosity of your donation to continue serving people. With your financial support, GLAD won't let anything stand in the way of its mission and will continue to meet the needs of the nearly one million deaf and hard of hearing people in Los Angeles alone.

Thank you for thinking of GLAD at this time of year. May you all have a year full of inspiration, education, change, dreams and progress.

GLADly,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue rectangular background.

Henry Winkler

"Just follow it here--in your heart--and your dreams will come true. Don't let anything stand in your way."