



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2007

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Mautner Project Executive Director Kathleen DeBold Honored by Women's eNews as One of 21 Leaders for the 21st Century

WASHINGTON - Women's eNews (www.womensenews.org) this week announced its 21 Leaders for the 21st Century. Kathleen DeBold of the Mautner Project, the National Lesbian Health Organization, was among those honored and is the only openly-lesbian honoree on the list. Among those honored were nineteen women and one man. All were recognized as having dedicated their life's work to improving the lives of women worldwide in the workplace, in schools, in the media and in the home.

"Women's eNews is delighted to include Kathleen DeBold in our list of 21 Leaders for the 21st Century 2007," noted Rita Henley Jensen, Editor-in-Chief. "Kathleen was nominated by one of our readers for her vision, her willingness to mentor and her inspiring spirit. As we read through hundreds of nominations, Kathleen's journey immediately raised unanimous support of the Women's eNews board of directors and staff."

DeBold, who champions the rights of women who are often ignored, works to ensure that lesbian, bisexual and transgender-women receive equal access to quality health care and that they are not discriminated against based on their economic status or sexual orientation.

"The idea of women taking care of women and fighting for health care equality has touched every chord in my lesbian-feminist heart," said DeBold, 51. "I'm blessed to work with wonderful staff members, volunteers, and clients who nurture the Mautner Project's community of caring."

Under DeBold's leadership, the Mautner Project has evolved from a local health group that primarily supported lesbians with cancer, to a national lesbian health organization that works to improve the health of women through advocacy, education, research and direct services.

This year's 21 Leaders for the 21st Century range from a peacemaker who returned to her native Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban to help women run for political office to a Dominican woman who walked the country's East Coast in a wedding dress to increase awareness of domestic violence. Each leader's story illustrates the resolve and strength women have and the risks they undertake to change the world. (<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/3003/context/cover/>)

Hundreds of nominations for the list poured in from Women's eNews readers and contributors around the world and were narrowed to the final twenty-one with much difficulty as the committee felt that so many were worthy. The 21 Leaders of the 21st Century will be honored at the Women's eNews Gala at the Tavern on the Green in New York City on May 22, 2007.

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About The Mautner Project, the National Lesbian Health Organization

Founded in 1990, The Mautner Project works to improve the health of lesbians and their families through

advocacy, education, research, and direct service. The Mautner Project envisions a healthcare system that is guided by social justice and is responsive to the needs of all people.

About Women's eNews

Since 1999, Women's eNews is the definitive source of substantive news--unavailable anywhere else--covering issues of particular concern to women and providing women's perspectives on public policy. Created to address the need for a media outlet to distribute news of concern to women and to provide women's voices to commercial media, Women's eNews enhances women's ability to define their own lives and to participate fully in every sector of human endeavor.

Women's eNews has been widely tapped by other media from coast to coast and around the globe, from such leading media outlets as The New York Times, PBS, The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, the New York Daily News, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Buffalo News, San Jose Mercury, the Birmingham News, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Spokane Spokesman-Leader, NPR and MSNBC to newspapers in Kuala Lumpur and the Philippines. An independent news agency, Women's eNews has already won numerous prestigious journalism awards. Each month, Women's eNews Web site receives about a quarter million visitors each month and its e-mail reaches more than 3 million readers.