

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact: Tonya Getzen Gowan  
(941) 416-2601 (for Media) and (941) 365-7716 (for Publication)  
January 15, 2016**

**Rock 'n' Roll Icon & Music Legend  
Joan Jett & the Blackhearts to Perform at The Firefly Gala  
Forty Carrots Family Center Announces Spring 2016 Fundraiser**

(Sarasota, FL) 2015 Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame inductee **Joan Jett & the Blackhearts** will perform at **Forty Carrots Family Center's Firefly Gala**, presented by the **Dart Foundation**, on **Saturday, April 30, 2016** at **The Ritz-Carlton Members Golf Club**. In its sixth year, this award-winning fundraising gala features a full-scale private concert to fewer than 600 guests, gourmet dinner and auction.

Six-time chairwoman and event creator **Ariane Dart** (pictured here with some of her committee) is preparing for this spectacular rock and roll gala – all with a compelling purpose of raising vital funds for Forty Carrots Family Center.

**The Dart Foundation is dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for youth by supporting community projects that offer children and young adults a better chance at succeeding both at school and in life. “The Dart Foundation embraces Forty Carrots’ mission to strengthen families through educational programs and mental health services for children and families. We are pleased to continue to support this annual benefit to aid families in Sarasota and Manatee counties,” says Ariane Dart, Forty Carrots Trustee and The Dart Foundation representative.**

Following the past five years of legendary rock band performances this year's gala continues to combine rock star entertainment with world-class dining and gala elegance - all with the chance to win exciting auction items like an entry for two to **The Fireball Run** or a membership to **The Ritz-Carlton Members Club** to name a few.

**What: *The Firefly Gala starring rock guitarist, singer, songwriter, producer and occasional actress “Joan Jett & the Blackhearts” presented by the Dart Foundation* When: 6 pm Saturday, April 30, 2016**

**Where: The Ritz-Carlton Members Golf Club, 15150 70<sup>th</sup> Terr., E., Bradenton**

For sponsorship details, ticket information or to learn how to be involved email [events@fortycarrots.com](mailto:events@fortycarrots.com) or call (941) 365-7716. Visit [www.fireflygala.org](http://www.fireflygala.org) or [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org). Follow **The Firefly Gala** on Facebook.

Joan Jett is an originator, innovator and visionary. As the leader of the hard-rocking Blackhearts, with whom she has become a Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame inductee, she's had eight platinum and gold albums and nine Top 40 singles, including the classics “Bad Reputation,” “I Love Rock 'N' Roll,” “I Hate Myself For Loving You,” and “Crimson and Clover.” She sits at the head of her own independent label, Blackheart Records. Jett has acted in movies and television, including 1987's Light Of Day, and in a Tony-nominated Broadway musical, The Rocky Horror Show. She has appeared on such acclaimed television shows as Oprah (the last season) and Law and Order. As a producer, she has overseen albums by Bikini Kill, Circus Lupus, as well as the Germs' LA punk masterpiece, GI. Her music has become a permanent force in mainstream culture. A version of “I Hate Myself for Loving You” has been NBC's Sunday Night Football, performed this past season by Carrie Underwood, and her music is heard in countless films and TV shows including Easy – A, Kick Ass, The Runaways, Shrek, Baby Mama, and many more.

**Committee Members Pictured:**

**Front row: Tomeika Hunter-Koski, Ariane Dart, Jane Bennett, Tonya Getzen-Gowan, -**

**Second row: Geri Jo Manson, Tina Granthon, Silvana Medina, Michelle Kapreilian, Sandi Boyajian, -**

**Third row: Minta Getzen, Jessica Warr, Melissa Morsli, Katrina Otchet, Amber McCoig, Ashley Williams, Flora Oynick, -**

**Committee members not pictured: DeAnna Creaturo, Sophia Emanuelli, Lesley France, Kim Hickerson, Kim Hill, Vicki Hornberger, Sharon Kunkel, Keffie Lancaster, Heather Holst-Knudsen, Marie Lusma, Bianca Lawrence, Ashley McLeod-Reeves, Sheri Nadelman, Lisa Olan, Anita Rahn, Mindy Rollins, Ana Varone, Alisa Westberry**

**Joan Jett & the Blackhearts Publicity Photo Attached**

Forty Carrots Family Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, children and professionals in the field.

For more information about Joan Jett & the Blackhearts visit

[http://96.239.100.153/digi\\_press\\_kit/joanjett\\_unvarnished/bio.html](http://96.239.100.153/digi_press_kit/joanjett_unvarnished/bio.html)

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