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**Madame Walker Awards Luncheon Honors Dr.'s Edward Ross, MD
and Gene McFadden, Ph.D**

INDIANAPOLIS --- The Madame Walker Theatre Center presents its annual fundraiser in the form of an awards luncheon. Now in its 7th year, the event will take place on April 19th from 11:30am – 1pm and will honor Dr. Edward Ross, MD and Dr. Gene McFadden, Ph.D. WTHR-TV's EyeWitness News Anchor, Andrea Morehead will emcee the event while the Keynote Address will be given by Billie Dragoo, President and CEO of RepuCare.

Dr. Gene McFadden, PhD. is an accomplished businessman and educator. His business career has included founding Freight Masters Logistics, Inc. North American Public Communications, and Classic Commercial Supply. Prior to his business career, Dr. McFadden was an award-winning educator in Michigan. McFadden was the CEO and founder of Freight Master Logistics for over 30 years and coined the phrase "Single Sourcing", providing global transportation by ocean-air-train and truck. Chrysler and GM were two of Freight Masters largest clients.

Dr. Edward Ross, MD is a highly recognized cardiologist in the city of Indianapolis with his most recent practice at IU Health. Dr. Ross has been an active participant and supporter of the Madame Walker Theatre Center for years. The Ross family has donated over \$50,000.00 to the Madame Walker Theatre Center as well as office furniture and several paintings from the family collection. In the late 90's, the Ross family purchased 12 seats that remain on the main floor of the historic theatre.

The Madame Walker Awards Luncheon, themed "Self-Made", is designated for Indiana-based entrepreneurs and professionals who have made a discernible difference in both the African-American and Indianapolis community. Past recipients of this distinguished award are: Bill Shrewsberry 2006, George Pillow 2007, Sam Odle 2008, David Gadis 2009, William Mays 2010, and the late Walter Blackburn and Robin Winston 2011. Sponsorships and individual tickets are still available.

For more information on the Madame Walker Theatre Center visit www.walkertheatre.com.

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