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Overstock.com CEO, Dr. Patrick Byrne, Dr. Sabrina Kaye and renowned Reggae Artist, Busy Signal speak at Affinity Charity Dinner to benefit AFJ

Kingston, Jamaica – (Jan 27, 2017) The 2017 Destination Experience “Visionaries Summit” welcomed several powerful US billionaires to Kingston, Jamaica for three days of events. Among the topics discussed were nation building and philanthropy. The Affinity Dinner, benefiting the American Friends of Jamaica, Inc. was held at the private home of gracious hosts, Christopher and Kimberly Issa, last Friday evening, January 27, 2017.

In its third year, The Destination Experience is designed to drive a paradigm shift in the economic outlook of Jamaica and the Caribbean by presenting networks capable of enabling high-level market access that encourage partnerships and investments. The event, which attracts an audience of global business luminaries, innovators, influencers and investors, was conceptualized by entrepreneurial duo, Kirk-Anthony Hamilton and his sister Michele-Anne Hamilton. Industry leaders including David Panton, Michael Roberts, Michael Lee Chin, Wes Edens, Dr. Kingsley Chin, Dr. Peter Blair Henry, Alex McKenzie, Sherri Pittman, Ambassadors Audrey Marks and Luis G. Moreno participated and attended. The distinguished guests in attendance at the event represented over US\$100 billion in assets, which marks a historic milestone for Jamaica.

The almost 150 guests who attended the Affinity Dinner heard Overstock.com CEO, Patrick M. Byrne, share his passion about the Caribbean and philanthropy. Dr. Byrne stated, “The Caribbean has always had a unique role in my life. Professor Richard Joseph from Trinidad was one of my great professors at Dartmouth College. He was such a fantastic teacher. He left me with a life-long connection to the Caribbean”. Dr. Byrne said he is always impressed with the human capital in the Caribbean and he spoke about WorldStock, which facilitates access to US markets for artisans selling unique goods. WorldStock has built 26 schools around the world named after Dr. Byrne’s mother, Dorothy Byrne. Overstock.com was launched in 1999 and achieved its first profitable quarter in 2002. The company went on to achieve its first full year of profitability in 2009, and in 2015, it posted revenues of US\$1.7 billion. Dr. Byrne is already invested in the region and made clear his interest in investing in Jamaica.

Dr. Sabrina Kay, Chancellor and CEO, Fremont College/Fremont Private Investments has been involved in education, fashion, leadership and business. She is an entrepreneur, Tech Educator and philanthropist.

Jamaica’s renowned Reggae Artist, Reanno Gordon “Busy Signal”, spoke about the importance of giving back and about his charity, *Busy2020 helpinghands*, which aims to implement sustainable programs that improve health, education, and standard of living in Jamaican communities.

AFJ Executive Director, Caron Chung encouraged potential donors to make tax deductible donations and spoke about current projects in Jamaica, the upcoming Jamaica Charity Gala fundraiser on April 1st at the Four Seasons Miami. She thanked The Destination Experience and guests attending the Affinity Dinner for their support. The AFJ is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit built on the principles of service and philanthropy. The organization is established to render assistance in the areas of Education, Healthcare, and Economic Development. The AFJ Grant Cycle begins at the end of each year and grants are disbursed in April of the following year. The Affinity Dinner was presented in partnership with Best Dressed Chicken, Tai Flora, Appleton Estate and Caribbean Producers Jamaica, amongst others.

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