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**Actress Jean Smart to Headline Local Events for Brain Cancer
Joins the Chris Elliott Fund to push for new treatments**

*Plans include launch of new charity wine label with Sinclair Estate
Vineyards and CEF 10th Anniversary luncheon*

SEATTLE – For 3-time Emmy winner Jean Smart, Seattle is more than a set and guest-starring role on “Frazier.” Smart grew up in Ballard and graduated from the University of Washington. This May, as part of National Brain Cancer Awareness month, Smart will headline two major events for the Seattle-based [Chris Elliott Fund](#) (CEF) including the launch of a new charity wine label with Sinclair Estate Vineyards (SEV) in Walla Walla, May 27 and 28, and CEF’s 10th Anniversary Brains Matter Awareness Auction Luncheon at the Bellevue Hyatt, May 26th.

Increasing patient education and brain cancer treatments have been a priority for Smart since her sister, Georgia Smart, died from the disease in January 2010. “When I learned my sister was diagnosed with brain cancer I was filled with fear and didn’t know what to think about the disease,” says Smart. “There were so few treatment options for my sister. What I now know is we have to bring brain cancer out of the shadows and illuminate it with light, science and optimism. It’s the only way to find a cure in our lifetime.”

Jean’s passion for fighting this disease is extraordinary,” says Dellann Elliott, president and CEO of the Chris Elliott Fund, “She’s been very hands-on serving as a CEF board member, producing public service ads, traveling and speaking out about this disease as an advocate for more treatment options and research. Like Jean, I believe we can find a cure for brain cancer if more research and resources are targeted at the disease.”

More than 22,000 Americans are diagnosed with a malignant brain cancer every year. It is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths for children under 19. About 60 to 70 percent of these cancers are glioblastoma (GBM) – the deadliest form of brain cancer with a life expectancy after diagnosis of only 12 to 14 months. CEF focuses their efforts on GBM.

Tim Sinclair, founder of Sinclair Estate Vineyards, says, “My good friend Sam Staatz is a 12 year brain cancer (GBM) survivor, so Sinclair Estate Vineyards’ participation in these events is very special and personal. We are excited to be associated with the [Chris Elliott Fund](#) and honored to



support Dellann and Jean's efforts in fighting this disease."

Proceeds from the SEV Chardonnay label and auction will go directly to patient advocacy and research that includes the Integrated Patient Support Program at the Ben and Catherine Ivy Center for Advanced Brain Tumor Treatment at the Swedish Neuroscience Institute in Seattle, and the Christopher S. Elliott Neuro-oncology Lab for Glioblastoma Brain Research and Applied Science Center at the Dana-Faber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Elliott added that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval in April of the first brain tumor-blasting device was historic and has helped to create a focus on the need for more treatment options.

"This type of brain cancer is the death sentence of our time like what HIV was 30 years ago, but it doesn't have to be that way," says Elliott, "the fact that it is incurable today, does not mean that it is not treatable. While HIV is not curable, it is manageable and patients are living longer and healthier lives with aggressive treatment. This is the hope that we want patients diagnosed with glioblastoma to know and experience."

Since 2002, CEF has raised over \$1 million for brain cancer research and is recognized as a national model for patient advocacy. "Our goal is to double our research dollars and ensure that every brain cancer patient has access to advanced treatments and genetic testing," Elliott says.

For event tickets and sponsorship information go to:

<http://chriselliottfund.org>

For more information about the Sinclair Estate Vineyards new Chris Elliott Fund Chardonnay go to:

<http://sinclairestatevineyards.com>

Jean Smart BIO

A gifted and versatile actress, Jean's talents and critical acclaim include theater, television and film. Her Emmy Awards include her guest-role on "Frasier" and Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy for "Samantha Who?" She received a fourth Emmy nomination for her role as the troubled First Lady Martha Logan on the FOX drama "24." In 2006, "24" won Best Drama and received a Golden Globe and Screen Actor's Guild nomination for Ensemble Cast. Jean was nominated for a Tony Award for her starring role opposite Nathan Lane on Broadway in "The Man Who Came to Dinner." Her numerous film credits include "Life As We Know It," with Katherine Heigl, "Lucky You," with Robert Duvall, "Hero Wanted," with Cuba Gooding, Jr., "Garden State," with Natalie Portman, and "Mistress," with Robert DeNiro, to name a few.

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