



NEWS

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Florence Crittenton welcomes Olympian Amy Van Dyken-Rouen as keynote speaker at annual luncheon

The 13th annual Teaming Up For Girls Luncheon, presented by Billing Tree, raises funds for at-risk girls in the Valley

PHOENIX (January 9, 2015) – Florence Crittenton's annual Teaming Up For Girls Luncheon is back for its 13th year to celebrate more than 118 years of service to at-risk girls and young women striving for excellence in the Valley. This nonprofit organization leads each day by the mission of "giving every girl whose life we touch safety, hope and opportunity", and keynote speaker and Arizona resident, **Amy Van Dyken-Rouen**, could not be more fitting to the mission. A six-time Olympic gold medalist with over ten notable awards and recognitions, Van Dyken-Rouen, a swimmer, has achieved her dreams. After facing a near-death ATV accident in June this year, Van Dyken-Rouen was left paralyzed. Yet, with her fierce competitiveness and resilient heart, her ultimate goal is to walk again on her own. **On March 6, 2015**, Amy Van Dyken-Rouen will share her story.



Keynote, Amy Van Dyken-Rouen



Chair, Deborah Bateman



HOPE Award Recipient, Shanna Parker

This year's luncheon is presented by **Billing Tree**, an on-demand payment processing company, and sponsored by **Arizona Lottery** and **Talking Stick Resort**. Chair of the 2015 luncheon is Vice Chairman of the National Bank of Arizona, **Deborah Bateman**. The luncheon will host a silent auction, raffle, mystery boxes and HOPE Award presentation by human trafficking activist and survivor, **Shanna Parker**. The money raised will support the organization's mission and essential services including residential for girls and young women ages 10 to 25, as well supports the Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona, a Florence Crittenton Initiative and the state's first and only single gender public school. These programs help girls

and young women ages 10 to 21 discover their self-worth and empower them become successful adults in the community.

Shanna Parker, an advocate for and mentor to victims of human trafficking is this year's HOPE Award recipient. HOPE Award recipients provide a **H**ead Start, **O**ppportunity, **P**ositive Future and **E**ducation for others in the community. Shanna founded AngelsGoToWork, an organization to help educate and raise awareness about the risks of human trafficking. Her book "And He Called Me Angel" tells the story of her life as a victim of trafficking from ages 13 to 17. Shanna's desire is to be a contributing member of the world that actively works to eradicate human trafficking.

Sponsorship tables begin at \$2,750, individual tickets are \$275 and VIP tickets are \$575. The event will begin at 10:30am with a reception and raffle. The luncheon program follows at 11:45am. For more information on purchasing a sponsorship table or ticket, **please contact Amanda Lasita** by at 602.288.4555 or alasita@flocrit.org.

About Florence Crittenton

For more than 118 years, Florence Crittenton, a nonprofit 501c(3) organization, has helped girls and young women ages 10 to 21 discover their strength and self-worth by providing them the support and resources they need to reach their full potential as successful and independent members of our community. The agency offers programs and services for individuals struggling to overcome challenges caused by poverty, abuse, neglect, crime, homelessness and violence. Florence Crittenton also holds the charter for the state's first and only public, single gender preparatory school, the Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona (GLAAZ). Each year, Florence Crittenton provides shelter, counseling, social support and education to nearly 1,200 girls and their families. For more information about Florence Crittenton and its programs and services, please visit www.flocrit.org.

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