



Florence Crittenton

*Where Hope Comes to Life*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Thunderbirds Charities Awards \$50,000 to Florence Crittenton**

*Funds will support the health and wellness of girls and young women in Arizona*

**PHOENIX**—Thunderbirds Charities, the charitable giving arm of the Thunderbirds – hosts of the Waste Management Phoenix Open Presented by The Ak-Chin Indian Community – recently awarded \$50,000 to Florence Crittenton to support its Girls Living Program. The funds will assist in the purchase of a van that will help the 120-year-old agency better serve the health and wellness of at-risk girls and young women throughout Arizona.

“We are elated with Thunderbirds Charities’ generosity to our organization,” said Dr. Kellie M. Warren, Florence Crittenton’s Chief Executive Officer. “Because of the Thunderbirds, we have been able to update our aging fleet that will significantly increase our ability to provide the girls in our Therapeutic Group Home with the best medical care.”

The van will be used to transport girls in the Therapeutic Group Home (TGH) to their doctor appointments and other offsite visits with specialized medical practitioners. The TGH annually provides a safe, home-like environment for 200 girls, ages 10 to 18, who are involved with foster care, juvenile justice and behavioral health systems. While enrolled in the TGH, girls learn to address and overcome trauma while also benefiting from services designed for their holistic development, which includes health and wellness.

“Florence Crittenton has such a tremendous impact on at-risk young women in our community and we excited to support such a great mission,” said Dan Mahoney, President of Thunderbirds Charities.

### **About Thunderbirds/Thunderbird Charities**

Thunderbirds Charities is a non-profit organization formed in 1986 to distribute monies raised through the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament. The Thunderbirds Charities Board consists of 15 board members from varying professional backgrounds. The mission of Thunderbirds Charities is to assist children and families, help people in need and improve the quality of life in our communities. The organization's giving is directed toward organizations based or with a significant presence in Arizona. The Thunderbirds were founded in 1937 with the mission of promoting the Valley of the Sun through sports. The Thunderbirds consist of 55 "active" members and more than 250 "life" members. For more information on the Thunderbirds or the 2017 Waste Management Phoenix Open Presented by The Ak-Chin Indian Community, visit [www.wmphoenixopen.com](http://www.wmphoenixopen.com). For more information on Thunderbirds Charities, visit [www.thunderbirdscharities.org](http://www.thunderbirdscharities.org).

### **About Florence Crittenton**

Founded in 1896, the mission of Florence Crittenton is to give every girl whose life we touch safety, hope and opportunity. The Agency has helped foster the recovery of girls and young women who have endured periods of victimization, chronic neglect, homelessness, poverty, teen pregnancy, drug abuse and/or mental instability. Our evidenced-based programs and services provide housing, healthcare, education, counseling, and social support to young women and girls, ages 10-to-25. Additionally, Florence Crittenton holds the charter for the state's first and only public, single-gender preparatory school, the Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona (GLAAZ).