



Florence Crittenton

Where Hope Comes to Life

NEWS
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Florence Crittenton's signature event raises over \$430K to change at-risk girls' lives

The 15th Annual Teaming Up For Girls Luncheon, presented by BillingTree and sponsored by MicroAge, hosted Simone Biles, Jen Bricker and Darlene Shephard

PHOENIX (March 29, 2017) – On Thursday, March 16th, Florence Crittenton celebrated its 15th Annual Teaming Up for Girls Luncheon with more than 750 guests at the J.W. Marriott Camelback Inn. Raising over \$430,000, the luncheon featured All-Around World Champion, Olympic Gold Medalist and foster care advocate, Simone Biles, who shared her story of resiliency and victory. The event also awarded Jen Bricker, author, acrobat and aerialist who was born without legs, with the H.O.P.E. (Head start, Opportunity, Positive future and Education) Award for empowering young girls with the message that anything is possible.

“Simone and Jen both have stories of determination and strength that resonate with the realities of so many girls,” said Dr. Kellie Warren, Chief Executive Officer of Florence Crittenton “They are incredible role models, and it was great for our girls to hear first-hand all that is possible when you have a goal and work hard every day, no matter the obstacles, to make it a reality.”

Presented by BillingTree and sponsored by MicroAge, the 15th Annual Teaming Up for Girls Luncheon also honored Darlene Shephard with the 2017 Visionary Award for her dedicating over 40 years of her life to volunteer at the agency. The Visionary Award is not awarded every year and is only given to a dynamic leader who is inspirational to others and is a trailblazer in community involvement.

Other attendees who helped celebrate the annual event commemorating Florence Crittenton's 120 years of service to at-risk girls and young women in the Valley included emcee, Heather Moore and event co-chairs, Tahniah McKeever and Cathy Stein. The funds raised from the luncheon will directly support Florence Crittenton's core programs, such as its Therapeutic Group Home, Girls Ranch, Permanent Supportive Housing and the Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona.

For more information on Florence Crittenton and its upcoming community events, please visit www.flocrit.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 counseling, education, healthcare, housing and social support to young women and girls, ages 10-to-25. Also, Florence Crittenton holds the charter for the state's first and only public, single-gender preparatory school, the Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona (GLAAZ).