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Florence Crittenton Luncheon Raises \$391,000 for At-Risk Girls in the Valley

Emmy nominated professional dancer Cheryl Burke and Cleveland kidnapping survivor Michelle Knight teamed up to support Valley nonprofit

PHOENIX – Commemorating more than 120 years of service to at-risk girls and young women in Arizona, Florence Crittenton’s 17th Annual Teaming Up for Girls Luncheon brought together over 700 guests from the community and raised \$391,000. The event was held on March 21, 2019 at the beautiful Phoenician Resort. All of the proceeds will benefit the nonprofit’s life-changing programs for girls, young women and their families.

The event featured a keynote speaker followed by a moderated ‘fireside chat’ with Emmy nominated professional dancer Cheryl Burke. Burke, best known for her work on *Dancing with the Stars*, opened up about topics that shaped her life including childhood abuse and living with criticisms of her weight and body. The event also honored author, philanthropist and Cleveland kidnapping survivor Lily Rose Lee, formerly known as Michelle Knight, as the 2019 HOPE Award recipient. . After surviving 11 years of captivity and trauma, she vowed to empower others and to make a difference in their lives. In addition, the 2019 Visionary Award was presented to Tahnia McKeever, a longstanding community champion and past board chair. The Visionary Award is a prestigious tribute to a dynamic member of the community who has shown dedication to the mission of Florence Crittenton.

“Cheryl Burke and Lily Rose Lee both shared stories that reflect the spirit of resilience and hope in the midst of heartbreaking tragedy and unspeakable trauma. In addition, we were honored to recognize Tahnia McKeever for her exceptional leadership and long term partnership. Thanks to these women and many other special moments, we were able to share the heart behind the mission of Florence Crittenton,” said Dr. Kellie Warren, CEO of Florence Crittenton. “We are grateful to our community for coming together this year and for the impact their support has made on the lives of the girls and young women we serve.”

Local philanthropic leaders Jenny Holsman Tetreault, Regional Legal Counsel at US Foods, and Latasha Causey, President and CEO of Social Venture Partners AZ, co-chaired this year’s celebration.

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 evidence-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).