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Dancing with the Stars' Cheryl Burke Teams Up with Florence Crittenton

17th Annual Teaming Up For Girls Luncheon will raise funds for at-risk girls in the Valley.

PHOENIX – Commemorating more than 120 years of service to at-risk girls and young women in Arizona, Florence Crittenton is proud to announce its 17th annual Teaming Up for Girls Luncheon presented by Gifts for Empowerment on March 21, 2019. The event will be held at the Phoenician Resort and will feature Emmy nominated professional dancer Cheryl Burke, best known for her work on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*, as the 2019 keynote speaker. All of the proceeds from the event will benefit the nonprofit's life-changing programs for girls, young women and their families.

Burke, a two-time champion on the hit dance show, has made a name for herself through various other projects, appearing in the reality series *Dance Moms*, NBC variety show *I Can Do That* and live stage production show, *Love on the Floor*. She began her journey in dance at age six and began competing at age 10 and cites dancing, for her, as a "way of life." Burke is also an author. In her book, *Dancing Lessons: How I Found Passion and Potential on the Dance Floor*, she opened up about topics that shaped her life from childhood abuse to living with criticisms of her weight and body.

"So much of my drive and success stems from the harsh realities of what I experienced in my past and built my capacity for overcoming that adversity to turn it into a positive," says Ms. Burke. "I have walked the path that many of these girls have walked so am proud to stand before them and the community that supports Florence Crittenton and share a little of my story."

Local philanthropic leaders Jenny Holsman Tetreault, regional legal counsel at US Foods, and Latasha Causey, director of regional site management at USAA, will co-chair this year's event. In addition, the agency is elated to present longstanding community champion and past Florence Crittenton board chair, Tahniah McKeever, with the 2019 Visionary Award. Under Tahniah's leadership as Board Chair, she was instrumental in elevating the agency and growing the members of our Board. Not only has she been an advocate for the agency as a whole, she has been a voice for the girls we serve.

The signature fundraising event for the agency will feature the keynote speech by Burke, a moderated "fireside chat," along with opportunities to support the event through silent auction, mystery boxes and the popular Ina Manaster Dream Bags.

"In our yearly search for dynamic keynote speakers, we are always amazed by how many share a similar path to that of the girls we serve. We are so excited to have Cheryl Burke share her story with us and inspire the girls with her narrative of overcoming adversity to follow her passion for dance," said Dr. Kellie Warren, CEO of Florence Crittenton. "Jenny and Latasha bring a fresh energy and excitement to the event, and we are so honored to recognize Tahniah McKeever for her years of service to us. We can't wait for you to join us for this annual celebration of our organization as we continue to provide safety, hope and opportunity to every girl whose life we touch."

Table Sponsorships begin at \$2,750 and individual tickets are \$275. For more information on how to get involved or to learn more about ticket and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Amanda Lasita at alasita@flocrit.org or at (602) 288.4555. To register, visit: https://donate.flocrit.org/TUFG_Sponsorship.

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).