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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating the Impact of Our Community on Philanthropy

Vegas Strong, now Vegas Stronger

LAS VEGAS – Each year, our community’s leaders, philanthropists, volunteers, and non-profit professionals come together to celebrate National Philanthropy Day®. This special day celebrates the great contributions the philanthropic community has made on the non-profit sector.

While we won’t be able to celebrate together in one physical location as we have in years past, on November 18, 2020, the Las Vegas chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP Las Vegas) will be hosting an exciting and interactive virtual event to celebrate our honorees and the entire philanthropic community. NPD Las Vegas will be unlike any other virtual event and will be hosted by Vegas’ very own Clint Holmes and Kelly Clinton Holmes!

In light of the pandemic, we are excited to announce two new award categories – the *Unsung COVID Hero Award*, which will be awarded to Meagan Bichsel, and the *Outstanding COVID Impact Award*, awarded to Delivering with Dignity.

Meagan Bichsel, PA-C made a significant impact in Southern Nevada during the pandemic. Not only did Meagan organize a pop-up food bank for more than 1,000 of our community’s at-risk senior citizens, donate 350 face shields during a national shortage to our homeless population, and partner with organizations to provide basic essentials, including dental supplies, to homeless families, but she also donated notebooks to high school seniors to help finish their school year, coordinated a \$10,000 donation to Aid for Aids of Nevada, and worked to obtain musical instruments and equipment, which she donated to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission to provide music therapy to the homeless. Thank you, Meagan for all you’ve done to help keep Vegas Strong!

Delivering with Dignity was founded as a result of the pandemic by community leaders Elizabeth Blau, Punam Mathur, Julie Foley Murray, and Tiffany Twohig. The organization created an innovative way to keep Southern Nevada restaurants economically viable to survive shutdowns. Delivering with Dignity helped dozens of our neighbors in the food and

beverage industry remain working so they can support their families - by getting paid to help other families! Since March 23, 2020, this amazing new nonprofit has served 169,321 meals, delivered by nearly 3,082 volunteer “food heroes” to the doorsteps of households in need. In the past few months, new Delivering with Dignity nonprofits have been founded in Reno/Sparks and in Orange County, CA.

AFP Las Vegas will also be inducting one previous National Philanthropy Day® award winner from each of the following categories: *Outstanding Philanthropist*, *Outstanding Youth Philanthropist*, *Outstanding Corporation*, *Outstanding Development Professional*, and *Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser*. The Hall of Fame awards will give us an opportunity to recognize, celebrate and immortalize the work of all those who have been a part of the greatness of our philanthropic community over the last 30 years.

Hall of Fame Finalists are:

Outstanding Philanthropist

Diana Bennett (2018)
Betty Engelstad and Kris Engelstad McGarry (2009)
Janice Allen (2017)
Dr. Barbara Greenspun (2006)
Victoria Fertitta (2014)

Outstanding Corporation

Las Vegas Sands Corp. (2018)
Southwest Gas Corporation (1999)
Cox Communications (2012)
Boyd Gaming (2004)
NV Energy (2011)

Outstanding Foundation

Nevada Women’s Philanthropy (2013)
Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation (2017)
Donald W. Reynolds Foundation (2014)
Frank and Victoria Fertitta Family Trust (1998)
Wells Fargo Foundation & Wells Fargo Bank Nevada (2009)
The Boyd Foundation (1997)

Outstanding Professional Fundraiser

Caleen Norrod Johnson, CFRE (2006)
Lucy Klinkhammer (2002)
Pam Lang (2017)
Linda Lysakowski, ACFRE (2004)
Sylvia Wolf (2016)

“We are very excited for the opportunity to celebrate not five, but seven individuals on Philanthropy Day with the addition of our COVID awards. There are many instances when our community members went the extra mile to help those in need during our nation’s very dark time, and these honorees deserve to be celebrated for their contributions and willingness to serve,” said Amy Wiles, AFP Las Vegas Board President.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to purchase tickets, please visit <https://afpllasvegas.org/events/national-philanthropy-day>.

About Association of Fundraising Professionals Las Vegas Chapter

Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), an individual member association, advances philanthropy through education, training and advocacy based on research, a code of ethical principles and standards of professional practice. The mission of AFP's Las Vegas Chapter is to provide professional growth, education and affiliation for members. AFP Las Vegas seeks to create and maintain an environment where differences in background, experience and perspective are valued, and individuals are treated with dignity, fairness and respect. For more information on Association of Fundraising Professionals Las Vegas Chapter, visit www.afpllasvegas.org.