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Nominations Now Open for Marjaree Mason Center's
Top Ten Professional Women Awards Taking Place this October

FRESNO, CA — May 15, 2026 — The Marjaree Mason Center is now accepting nominations for the 43rd Annual Top Ten Professional Women Awards, leading up to the annual luncheon on October 21, 2026, at the Fresno Convention & Entertainment Center.

The Top Ten Professional Women Awards are a hallmark awards ceremony that highlights the achievements and commitment of individuals who have raised the bar in their professions and enriched the lives of others. This event not only provides recognition to individuals but also serves as a platform to inspire others and promote the values of leadership, excellence, and community service.

Nominations for the awards are now open and will be accepted until June 26, 2026 at 5pm (PST). Individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit nominations for candidates who have demonstrated leadership, professional excellence, community involvement, and a commitment to empowering others. Nomination applications can be accessed on the Marjaree Mason Center website at www.mmcenter.org.

Honorees are expected to be announced early August.

In addition to honoring ten deserving nominees, the event seeks to raise awareness surrounding domestic violence, open and strengthen community conversations around the issue, and inspire greater understanding, advocacy, and support for survivors.

This year, the Marjaree Mason Center is deeply honored to welcome Nichole and Jim Schmidt, the mother and stepfather of the late Gabby Petito, as keynote speakers.

Gabby Petito's story captured hearts across the nation. A vibrant, 22-year-old travel vlogger with dreams of adventure, her life was tragically cut short in 2021 at the hands of her boyfriend while on a cross-country trip. Her death, chronicled in Netflix's *American Murder*, sparked a global conversation about domestic violence, and specifically teen dating violence.

Through unimaginable heartbreak, Nichole and Jim have turned their pain into purpose. As founders of the Gabby Petito Foundation, they have become tireless advocates for domestic violence prevention and missing persons advocacy, working to ensure that no other family endures such a devastating loss. Their story is one of courage, resilience, and hope — a reminder that love and determination can create meaningful change.

Their message moves hearts and inspires action and we are honored to welcome Nichole and Jim to Fresno for what will undoubtedly be a powerful and unforgettable keynote address.

Tickets are expected to sell out quickly. Those interested in attending can purchase a sponsorship, table, or individual tickets early to be part of the inspiring event celebrating leadership, empowerment, and hope.

Tickets can be purchased now at: mmcenter.org

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About Marjaree Mason Center
For over 45 years, the Marjaree Mason Center has offered safe housing and support services to adults and their children affected by domestic violence in Fresno County. As the only comprehensive domestic violence agency in Fresno County, the Marjaree Mason Center provides housing, legal services, counseling and education to survivors and youth. The Center was founded in 1979 after the murder of Marjaree Mason, a native of Easton. A graduate of Washington High School and Reedley College, Marjaree lived in Fresno for 31 years and was well known in the community. To contact MMC, call the business center at 559.237.4706, the 24-hour confidential emergency helpline at 559.233.HELP (4357) or help@mmcenter.org, or learn more online at www.mmcenter.org.