



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Ashlee Wolf
Director of Philanthropy and Communication
Phone: (559) 487-1313; Mobile: (559) 916-5101
Email: ashlee@mmcenter.org

Marjaree Mason Center Announces Danielle and Mark Herzlich with Moderator David Carr as Keynote Speakers for 41st Anniversary Top Ten Event

Fresno, CA – July 15, 2024 - Marjaree Mason Center, a leading organization dedicated to ending domestic violence and providing support for survivors, is thrilled to announce Danielle and Mark Herzlich as the keynote speakers for their 41st Annual Top Ten Professional Women and Leading Business Awards presented by CalViva Health. Retired NFL football player, Fresno State alum, and personal friend to the Herzlich's, David Carr, will moderate the discussion.

This prestigious awards ceremony honoring local professionals (expected to be announced early August) is expected to bring 1,500 attendees together with the goal of honoring outstanding individuals in our community while also raising awareness of domestic violence. The event will take place on October 16, 2024 at the Fresno Convention & Entertainment Center.

For the first time in event history, the event keynote speaker, sponsored by Valley Children's Healthcare, is a married couple, Danielle and Mark Herzlich, who have made it their personal mission to spend their lives advocating for survivors of domestic violence.

Danielle was raised in a violent home, and as a teenager, found herself in an abusive teen dating relationship. She spent many years of her life hiding, never speaking about it, and internalizing her anger. After escaping the unhealthy and abusive relationship after high school, she attended Boston College where she decided to join the military. She enlisted in the Massachusetts National Guard, enrolled in Boston College's ROTC program, and would later join the New Jersey National Guard as the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate for the State of New Jersey.

During her junior year of college, Danielle met Mark Herzlich, who was a star football player at Boston College. Shortly after they began dating, Mark was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma, a very rare form of bone cancer. He was given a 10% chance of survival, but he would go on to beat cancer, play seven seasons with the New York Giants and win a Super Bowl.

In very different ways, Danielle and Mark are bonded in their stories of survival. Danielle says that Mark helped her stop looking at herself as a victim, and helped her to embrace being a survivor.

Together over the past several years, Danielle and Mark have traveled across the country, sharing her story to thousands of people. Mark has spoken to hundreds of men in regards to healthy manhood, changing the culture of “what it means to be a man,” and about respecting and protecting women and children.

After spearheading the very first NFL Domestic Violence Awareness game in October 2015, Danielle and Mark were asked to join the National Board of Directors for Joyful Heart Foundation with the goal of changing the way our culture treats the issues of domestic violence.

“When I was going through what I was going through years ago, either people didn’t believe me, or they didn’t have the tools – or thought they didn’t have the tools – to do anything about it.” Danielle said. “I want to change that for every other survivor out there.”

As part of their advocacy work, Danielle and Mark have traveled to fortune 500 companies, sports teams, the military, and high schools nationwide to speak about domestic violence and sexual assault. Through these efforts, curriculum has since been built around what it means to be a man and how men should treat women. This curriculum is now provided to all 32 teams in the NFL.

“I am a cancer survivor. I can donate money to hospitals and doctors who are trained to find cures and treat patients, but I am not a doctor myself, and I cannot directly affect change by creating a cure,” Mark said. “But with the issue of domestic violence, I can directly affect change that will end domestic violence. I believe that men need to come together and fix this MEN’S issue.”

Today, Mark and Danielle sit on the Board of A Call to Men. Mark is also on the board of the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund as well as being an advisory member of the Jimmy Fund.

Danielle currently serves as the Director of Initiatives at PAO, a ministry that serves professional athletes across the country. She is currently pursuing a seminary degree in biblical counseling.

Mark, as the Director of Team Freedom at International Justice Mission (IJM), the world’s largest anti-human trafficking organization, champions the cause of justice and dedicates his efforts to eradicating the scourge of human trafficking. He also currently serves as a studio analyst and color commentator for college football for ESPN’s ACC Network.

Mark’s former New York Giants teammate, good friend, and Fresno State Alum, David Carr, will moderate the discussion focused on what we can do as a community to combat domestic violence and support survivors.

David is a former football quarterback who played ten seasons in the NFL. He played college football for the Fresno State Bulldogs and was selected first overall by the Houston Texans in the 2002 NFL Draft. David also played for the Carolina Panthers, the New York Giants, where he was a member of their Super Bowl winning team, and the San Francisco 49ers. He currently serves as the offensive coordinator at Bakersfield Christian High School and as an NFL analyst.

The conversation during the October 16th luncheon will undoubtedly inspire and empower all those in attendance.

Tickets are on sale now at www.mmcenter.org.

###

About Marjaree Mason Center

For over 40 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 hotline at 559.233.HELP (4357) or help@mmcenter.org, or learn more online at www.mmcenter.org.