



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marjaree Mason Center announces 40th Annual Top Ten Professional Women and Leading Business Awards Honorees

Fresno, CA - (August 10, 2023) - The Marjaree Mason Center proudly announces the distinguished honorees for the 40th Annual Top Ten Professional Women and Leading Business Awards presented by CalViva Health. These exceptional individuals have been selected to receive this prestigious recognition based on their outstanding contributions and remarkable dedication to their respective fields. All honorees were nominated by their peers in the community who firmly believe in their deservingness of such an accolade for their exceptional work.

A committee of 5 community judges meticulously reviewed and scored nearly 40 outstanding candidates. The nominees were evaluated based on their exemplary achievements, leadership, and unwavering commitment to making a positive impact. They join an alumni class that has greatly impacted the Central Valley community over the last four decades.

2023 Top Ten Professional Women Honorees sponsored by U.S. Bank:

- Lisa Casarez-Austin, MSW, CEO and Founder, Angels of Grace, Foster Family Agency
- Julie Cleeland, CEO, Eye-Q Vision Care
- Gina Cuttone, Owner/President, Barthuli & Associates Insurance Services, Inc.
- Jené D'Ambrosio, President/Co-Owner, D'Ambrosio Trading, Inc.
- Joy J. Goto, Ph.D., Interim Dean, Division of Research and Graduate Studies, California State University, Fresno
- Marissa Jackson, Police Sergeant, City of Fresno Police Department
- Graciela Moreno, News Anchor/Reporter, KFSN-TV/ABC 30
- Honorable Keshia Thomas, Trustee, Fresno Unified School District and Executive Director, Fresno Career Development Institute
- Deonna Villegas-McPeters, MSW, LCSW, Director, Patient and Family Services, Social Work, Interpreter Services, Child Life and Spiritual Care, Valley Children's Healthcare
- Nicole Zieba, City Manager, City of Reedley

2023 Leading Business:

Hinds Hospice

Represented by Eric Klimes, MBA, CEO

The 40th Annual Top Ten Professional Women and Leading Business Awards ceremony will be held at the Fresno Convention & Entertainment Center in the New Exhibit Hall on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, commencing at 11 am. This event promises to celebrate excellence, bringing together a diverse array of trailblazers and visionaries who have left an indelible mark on their industries.

Individual tickets for this event are priced at \$75, while those interested in sharing this experience with colleagues and friends can purchase a table of 8 for \$600. Tickets are available for purchase online at <https://mmcenter.org/top-ten>. Several sponsorship opportunities are also still available.

This is the 40th Anniversary of this prestigious awards ceremony honoring local professionals and 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 keynote speaker, sponsored by Valley Children's Healthcare, is Leslie Morgan Steiner, a highly acclaimed New York Times best-selling author, a renowned columnist for The Washington Post and AARP, a former corporate executive, and an inspiring domestic violence survivor. Her TedTalk "Why Domestic Violence Victims Don't Leave" has over 10 million views. She brings a unique perspective to the conversation surrounding domestic violence and empowers audiences through her personal journey and professional expertise.

Steiner's memoir, "Crazy Love," has resonated with readers worldwide, shedding light on the complexities of abusive relationships and inspiring countless individuals to seek help and take action. As a domestic violence survivor, she brings a profound understanding of survivors' challenges and a message of hope for a brighter future.

Her remarkable story of resilience and dedication to advocating for survivors of domestic violence align with Marjaree Mason Center's mission and her presence will undoubtedly inspire and empower those in attendance.

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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.