

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Marjaree Mason Center Announces 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Top Ten Professional Women and Leading Business Awards Honorees**

Fresno, CA - (August 1, 2024) - The Marjaree Mason Center proudly announces the distinguished honorees for the 41st 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 4 community judges meticulously reviewed and scored several 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.

#### **2024 Top Ten Professional Women Honorees sponsored by U.S. Bank:**

- Cynthia Bruno Rafferty, CEO, Richard Heath & Associates, Inc
- Dr. Jaswant Chahal-Matharu, Physician, Obgyn Associates Medical Group
- Traci Fritzler, Assistant District Attorney, Fresno County District Attorney's Office
- Dr. Bonnie Her, Physician, Community Health Partners
- Patty Hixson, Regional Vice President, Cumulus Radio - Fresno, Stockton, Modesto
- Dr. Andrea Long, Associate Clinical Professor, UCSF Fresno
- Emilia Reyes, CEO, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
- Margarita Rocha, Executive Director, Centro La Familia Advocacy Services
- Dr. Linda Scott, Founder & CEO, Agape Schools and Agape College of Business and Science
- Valerie Vuicich, Retired Educator

#### **2024 Leading Business:**

- Payroll People, INC.

The 41st 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 16, 2024, 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 10 for \$750. Tickets are available

for purchase online at <https://mmcenter.org/top-ten>. Several sponsorship opportunities are also still available.

This is the 41st 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 speakers, sponsored by Valley Children's Healthcare, are Danielle and Mark Herzlich. For the first time in event history, the keynote speakers are a married couple who have made it their personal mission to spend their lives advocating for survivors of domestic violence. Retired NFL football player, Fresno State alum, and personal friend to the Herzlich's, David Carr, will moderate the discussion.

Danielle grew up in a violent home and as a teenager found herself in an abusive relationship. After escaping this relationship, she attended Boston College, joined the Massachusetts National Guard and enrolled into the Boston College's ROTC Program. Danielle later joined the New Jersey National guard as the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate for the State of New Jersey.

At Boston College she met Mark Herzlich, a star football player. Mark was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma, a rare bone cancer. He would go on to survive cancer and play for the New York Giants, winning a Super Bowl.

Their shared survival stories created an unbreakable bond and led them to advocate together against domestic violence. After leading the first NFL Domestic Violence Awareness game in October 2015, Danielle and Mark joined the National Board of Directors for Joyful Heart Foundation with the goal of changing the way our culture handles domestic violence issues. Together they have developed a curriculum on healthy manhood that is now provided to 32 teams in the NFL.

It is sure to be an inspirational and empowering conversation for all those in attendance. For more information, visit [www.mmcenter.org](http://www.mmcenter.org).

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### **About Marjaree Mason Center**

For over 41 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](mailto:help@mmcenter.org), or learn more online at [www.mmcenter.org](http://www.mmcenter.org).