



For Immediate Release

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Judge from U.S.A. Olympics Doctor Sex Abuse Trial to Keynote Partnership's RISE Dinner

(Chattanooga, TN) March 11, 2019 - On Friday, April 26, Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults (Partnership) is hosting RISE. RISE focuses on how our community rises together to support our neighbors in need. Each year this event will focus on one of the many programs Partnership provides to the community.

"RISE 2019 will showcase Victim Support Services, our most utilized program, which provides a safe shelter for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and outreach services for individuals and families to move forward after these traumatic experiences. We sincerely appreciate our 2019 major sponsors, Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union and SunTrust Bank Foundation," says Sharon Love, Director of Philanthropy.

RISE 2019 will be held at The Chattanooga Hotel at 7:00pm featuring the Honorable Rosemarie Aquilina as the keynote speaker, Alison Lebovitz as emcee, and honors several distinguished community partners who have stepped up and positively impacted our agency and the Chattanooga community.

Judge Aquilina is the judge who empowered over 150 women to speak out against U.S.A. Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar and sentenced Nassar up to 175 years in prison. In December, she was named as one of 2018's Women of the Year by Glamour Magazine. Judge Aquilina was elected to the 30th Circuit Court for Ingham County in Lansing, Michigan in 2008, where she currently serves. Previously, she served as a 55th District Court Judge for 4 years, during which time she served as Chief Judge as well as the Sobriety Court Judge.

Judge Aquilina retired honorably from the Michigan Army National Guard after twenty years of service. She became part of Michigan's history by becoming the first female JAG Officer in the Michigan Army National Guard when she enlisted. Ultimately, she became one of the most requested JAG Officers because of her dedication to service and the soldiers she served with.

"Without open, honest communication in a safe place, nothing will change. The vulnerable can no longer pay the price of silence and indifference. Change is overdue. Working together we can show victims that they matter and there is meaningful change, not just idle talk," said Aquilina.



“This event is a first of its kind for us, and showcasing the many services we provide to victims of violence is very timely given the worldwide epidemic of sexual assault that we continue to see in the media headlines,” said Pam Ladd, Chief Executive Officer. “Judge Aquilina’s words to the victim’s in the trial had a global impact for victims around the world.” Last year, the Partnership’s 24/7 Crisis Hotline received 5,723 call, 1241 victims of domestic violence received shelter or non-residential support services, and the Rape Crisis Center served 414 clients.

Tickets are \$100 and tables of eight are \$1,000. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Register online at PartnershipFCA.com/RISE. For additional information, contact Sharon Love at slove@partnershipfca.com or call 423-697-3827.

Event Details:

RISE, Friday, April 26, 7:00 p.m., The Chattanooga Hotel

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The Partnership for Families, Children and Adults has been serving the Tennessee Valley community for 140 years through professional counseling, crisis intervention, and prevention services. It began with the 1877 establishment of the Ladies Aid Society, which later became the Florence Crittenton Home. Under direction of United Way, The Florence Crittenton Service, Family Service Agency and Travelers Aid Society merged into Community Services of Greater Chattanooga, Inc. in 1973. In 1981, the agency assumed the name Family and Children’s Services of Chattanooga, Inc., and in 2003 became the Partnership for Families, Children and Adults.