

Media Contact:

Destiny DeJesus
Marketing and Media Coordinator
Interfaith Family Services
Phone: (469) 828-1814
Email: ddejesus@interfaithdallas.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERFAITH FAMILY SERVICES HELD ITS 2ND ANNUAL LUNCHEON | DALLAS, TEXAS

Interfaith Family Services held a successful and sold-out luncheon to fight family homelessness in Dallas. The 2nd Annual Interfaith Auxiliary Luncheon took place on Friday, March 31st, 2017 at the Dallas Country Club with Megan Filgo, Anna Moss and Molly Thomas as the event chairs and Francie Moody-Dahlberg serving as the honorary chair. The luncheon was able to net \$109,183.34 to help families and children escape the cycle of poverty.

The keynote speaker for the afternoon was Robin Roberts of ABC's Good Morning America. Roberts took the podium after Whitney Tolliver, an Interfaith graduate who shared her testimonial. The entire room was teary-eyed as Tolliver told her story of becoming homeless with her 1-year-old son after she lost her home in the 2016 tornados, then lost her job the following month. On the day of the luncheon, Whitney was moving in to her own apartment, having graduated from Interfaith that week ready to continue her journey towards self-sufficiency.

As Roberts approached the stage, she thanked Whitney for her strength and courage to tell her story. She then began to lighten up the mood with words of encouragement. Roberts showed her humorous side when she opened her speech by sharing the 3 D's she lives by: Discipline, Determination and "Da Lord".

Roberts emphasized trusting God to lead you to the right path. She also spoke about how her initial dream of becoming a sports broadcaster took a detour and how she learned the importance of trusting her journey.

Roberts gave both a heartfelt and thought-provoking speech of the life lessons she continues to learn through her struggles with illness and adversity. When Roberts was diagnosed with breast cancer, she remembered what her mother told her; "make your mess your message". Roberts carried that motto throughout her recovery and decided to publically share her story in order to save others.

By calling attention to dreaming big but focusing small, Roberts was able to leave the audience with the key message "Everybody's Got Something".

Proceeds from the luncheon supported Interfaith's Hope and Horizons Children's Program as well as Interfaith's Home & Hope Transitional Housing Program that provides housing and support services for nearly 100 families in crisis each year.

ABOUT INTERFAITH FAMILY SERVICES

For almost 30 years, Interfaith Family Services (Interfaith) has been a leading resource for working poor families and a haven for homeless children who long for stability and hope. Today, we are even more committed to our mission to empower families in crisis and break the cycle of poverty. At the core of our work is a simple yet effective program formula: Stability + Self-Worth + Skills = Self-Sufficiency. First, we stabilize about 100 homeless families (nearly 90% of them female-led) each year by providing them with fully-furnished housing for up to a year in one of the 26 units that we own debt-free, and we offer daily children's programs tailored to the unique needs of homeless children. Next, we increase their self-worth through on-site counseling for parents and play therapy for children. Finally, we develop their skills via career coaching, financial coaching, and life-skills classes for parents and daily homework assistance and individualized tutoring for children. These comprehensive holistic services lay the foundation for the families' long-term self-sufficiency. Our outcomes prove that our model works. Interfaith families earn more (\$13.51/hour), save more (\$1,631 on average), reduce more debt (\$1,167 on average), and remain self-sufficient longer than the members of any other transitional housing providers that report their outcomes publically.

For more information on Interfaith Family Services or to discover other ways you can support Interfaith's work, please contact Destiny DeJesus, Marketing and Media Coordinator, at ddejesus@interfaithdallas.org or visit www.interfaithdallas.org.