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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERFAITH FAMILY SERVICES ANNOUNCES SPEAKER FOR ITS 2ND ANNUAL LUNCHEON | DALLAS, TEXAS

After a successful and sold-out inaugural luncheon raising over \$300,000 to fight family homeless in Dallas, our supporters have been eager to find out what our plans are for this year. The wait is over! Interfaith Family Services, formerly Interfaith Housing Coalition, will host its 2nd Annual Interfaith Auxiliary Luncheon on Friday, March 31, 2017 at the Dallas Country Club at 11:30 a.m. This year's luncheon will feature the Reader's Digest "Most Trusted Person on Television" and four-time Daytime Emmy Award Winner, Robin Roberts of ABC's Good Morning America as the keynote speaker. In her latest memoir Everybody's Got Something, Roberts tells the amazing story of her courageous battle against a life-threatening illness, the life lessons she continues to learn, and her inspiring return to the GMA anchor desk. This year's luncheon chairs are Megan Filgo, Anna Moss and Molly Thomas. The Interfaith Auxiliary has raised over \$2.1 million in the last 17 years.

The luncheon will raise awareness about the factors that have led to the rise in child poverty in Dallas. According to The Dallas Morning News, "Dallas has the worst childhood poverty rate of the country's 10 biggest cities. About 38 percent of Dallas children live in poverty, which means a family of four makes less than \$24,000 annually."

Proceeds from the luncheon will support 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 a year. Sponsorships for the 2nd Annual Auxiliary Luncheon are currently available, but we fully anticipate that this luncheon will sell out quickly. To reserve your spot today, please contact Ashley Agnew, Chief Development Officer, at aagnew@interfaithdallas.org or visit Interfaith online at <http://interfaithdallas.org/event/interfaith-auxiliary-luncheon/>.

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, 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.

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