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**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Auxiliary Luncheon**  
**Theme: “Celebrating Interfaith Moms for Mother’s Day”**  
**Monday, May 13, 2024 at a local country club**

**DALLAS, Texas, February 5, 2024** – Interfaith Family Services, whose mission is to empower families in crisis to break the cycle of poverty, will hold its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Auxiliary Luncheon on Monday, May 13, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. at a local country club. “Celebrating Interfaith Moms for Mother’s Day” will be the theme of this year’s springtime fundraiser, which will provide support for families seeking to make a fresh start and create lifelong independence. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. for a wine reception followed by lunch.

**Madison Strode** and **Lisa Sahliyah Gladnick** will co-chair the event, and the **Sapphire Foundation** will serve as honorary chairs. NBC 5’s **Meredith Land** will be the emcee of the Interfaith Auxiliary Luncheon. The day’s featured speaker will be an Interfaith graduate who will share her moving story of overcoming hardship and creating a stable life for herself and her children.

Strode said, “Lisa and I are so honored to cohost this year’s Auxiliary luncheon. We feel humbled by Interfaith’s mission to help families break the cycle of poverty. We hope to make a meaningful impact on their mission at this year’s luncheon.”

Gladnick continues, “We are in awe of the resilience and determination of the Interfaith mothers. Madison and I are delighted to bring awareness to this important organization and raise critical funds needed to help Interfaith families succeed.”

The need for Interfaith’s services has increased in recent years:

- Over the past 15 years, the poverty rate in Dallas has increased by 42% while the population has only increased by 4.4%. (Child Poverty Action Lab, 2022)
- One in four children in Dallas currently lives in poverty – the third highest rate in the U.S. (Child Poverty Action Lab, 2022)
- Single mothers, on average, spend 50% of their income on rent and 30% on childcare, leaving just 20% to cover the cost of food, clothing, transportation and other expenses. (Economic Issues for Women in Texas, 2020)

Interfaith’s holistic approach addresses the root causes of family poverty to produce remarkable results. About 98% of Interfaith’s graduates exit with employment, where 91% remain employed

after one year, and 94% of graduates exit to permanent housing. Additionally, 88% of Interfaith's school-age children improved in reading and 84% in math.

Interfaith Family Services' Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Williams added, "The Interfaith Auxiliary Luncheon is so important in our efforts because it provides the critical financial support that we need to help our families reach their goal of financial stability and break the cycle of poverty for generations to come. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed to making this year's event a big success."

**ABOUT INTERFAITH FAMILY SERVICES:**

Since 1985, Interfaith Family Services has empowered Dallas families in crisis to break the cycle of poverty. The organization's model includes programs that eliminate barriers to stability, equip parents with career and financial coaching, and educate children to stop the cycle of generational poverty. Programming is located at Interfaith Family Services' Family Empowerment Center in East Dallas, which houses both a residential program to empower families to overcome homelessness and nonresidential services that help families at risk of homelessness to overcome crisis. Interfaith's holistic and dual-generational programs help 9 out of 10 Interfaith graduates exit with employment and permanent housing, while 4 out of 5 school-age children in Interfaith programs demonstrate improved math and reading skills. Contact Yesenia Morales, Community Relations Manager, at (469) 828-1829 or [ymorales@interfaithdallas.org](mailto:ymorales@interfaithdallas.org), and you can always visit [www.interfaithdallas.org](http://www.interfaithdallas.org) for more information.

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