

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Interfaith Family Services Auxiliary Luncheon Raises Over \$200,000 to Help Break the Cycle of Poverty

DALLAS, May 20, 2024 – Interfaith Family Services proudly hosted its 9th Annual Auxiliary Luncheon on May 13, celebrating “Interfaith Moms for Mother’s Day” at a local country club. This successful springtime fundraiser brought together 300 guests and raised over \$200,000 to support families in crisis striving for lifelong independence.

Co-chaired by Madison Strode and Lisa Sahliyah Gladnick, with the Sapphire Foundation serving as honorary chairs, the event featured NBC 5’s Meredith Land as emcee, guiding attendees through a heartfelt program. A powerful highlight was the speech delivered by Interfaith graduate La-Shawnda Thompson, who shared her inspiring journey from hardship to stability.

“In my time at Interfaith, I was given the tools to rebuild my life,” Thompson reflected. “The love and support from the staff reminded me that my children and I were not alone. My daughters inspired me to write a book called *I’m Not Ugly, God Made Me Beautiful*, encouraging others to believe in themselves. I stand before you today as a testament to the miracles that happen when faith meets action.”

The need for Interfaith’s services has grown significantly, with the Child Poverty Action Lab reporting a 42% increase in the poverty rate in Dallas over the past 15 years. Currently, one in four children in Dallas lives in poverty, marking the third-highest rate in the U.S. Single mothers, on average, allocate half their income to rent and 30% to childcare, leaving only 20% for other essential expenses (Economic Issues for Women in Texas, 2020).

Interfaith’s holistic approach effectively addresses the root causes of family poverty, achieving impressive results: 98% of graduates secure employment, with 91% maintaining their jobs after one year, and 94% transitioning to permanent housing.

Kimberly Williams, Chief Executive Officer of Interfaith Family Services, stated:

“Many guests left with a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by single mothers in Dallas, and were inspired by how Interfaith empowers them to overcome these obstacles. The support and generosity shown today will enable us to continue making a significant impact in the lives of families in need.”

For more information or to arrange an interview with a representative from Interfaith Family Services, please contact Britt at 214-566-8603.

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About Interfaith Family Services:

Interfaith Family Services provides essential services to families in crisis, empowering them to achieve self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty through a holistic approach that addresses their immediate needs and equips them with the tools for lasting independence.