



MEDIA ADVISORY – For Immediate Release

JUNE 6, 2020

Arizona Foundation for Women (AFW), a local organization that supports essential programs that assist women through grant-funding, announced its new virtual awards event--a digital alternative to their annual luncheon event fundraiser. This event also celebrates the Foundation's 25th year of serving the Arizona community

The virtual awards event will feature the Foundation's award recipients, who were originally scheduled to make an appearance at the traditional luncheon that has been canceled due to COVID-19:

- [Gretchen Carlson](#) – 2020 Sandra Day O'Connor Lifetime Achievement Award honoree for her advocacy for female empowerment, especially in the work place. Carlson, an award-winning journalist, was influential in the #MeToo movement with her historic 2016 sexual harassment complaint against the chairman of FOX News. Her struggles with harassment was recently retold in the movie, *Bombshell*, with actress Nicole Kidman playing her.
- [Christi Paul](#) – 2020 Voice of Women Award honoree for her longtime involvement with causes that help children and teens. Paul founded Find Our Children, a partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Washington, D.C. She is the author *Love Isn't Supposed to Hurt*, published in 2012, about her journey in overcoming verbal and emotional abuse.
- [Barbara Strachan](#) – 2020 Marilyn R. Seymann Award honoree for developing and building inclusive programs for Girl Scouts from all walks of life for more than 20 years. She was instrumental in co-creating the Adelante Jovencitas (Young Women Moving Forward) program which received the FBI Directors Community Leadership Award. She is the director of Social Impact Programs for Girl Scouts–Arizona Cactus-Pine Council.

Local celebrity and media personality, [Carey Peña](#), hosts the virtual event, which will include an exclusive interview with Carlson, via video conferencing.

WHEN: 5:15 p.m., Thursday, June 11

WHERE: Registration is open to everyone. To join the virtual event [register here](#).

WHO: Gretchen Carlson, Christi Paul, Barbara Strachan – honorees
Marilyn Seymann – founder of Arizona Foundation of Women
Carey Peña – host; Letitia Frye – auctioneer/entertainer

DETAILS:

- The virtual event is about one-hour long and Peña's recorded interview with Carlson will be a highlight.
- Honorees Carlson and Paul can be available for video/telephone interviews regarding their work with various women's programs and causes.
- There will be an opportunity for viewers to purchase raffle tickets to win great prizes from local businesses and supporters. A raffle drawing will be announced as a separate Facebook live event.
- AFW has partnered with [On24](#), a technology company that offers robust features to enhance webinars, video conferencing and virtual events.
- Videos of success stories from grantees will be showcased during the event.

Background:

[The Arizona Foundation for Women](#) was founded in 1995 by community trailblazer and philanthropist Marilyn Seymann and a group of local women leaders in response to the low rate of philanthropic giving to women's issues. We envision an Arizona where women are safe, healthy and economically independent. Our mission is to advance the status of Arizona's women through research, advocacy and philanthropy.

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