

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Champions for Children Campaign Raises Record-Breaking \$250,000 for Safe Harbor Center

Brunswick, GA – April 25th, 2024 – In an extraordinary demonstration of community spirit and generosity, the second annual Champions for Children campaign shattered expectations by raising a monumental \$250,000 in support of Safe Harbor Center. This achievement, led by returning campaign chairs Lizzie Piazza, Bentley Kaufman and Kate Dart, represents the largest fundraising event in the organization's 33-year history.

The Winner's Circle Celebration, held at Queen and Grant in historic downtown Brunswick, was a vibrant affair. Owen Plant and The American Bombshells dazzled attendees with live music and entertainment, while patrons enjoyed sipping and shopping at a garden market with bar by Halyard's. Participating merchants donated 15% of proceeds back to Safe Harbor. They include Courtney Crabb Designs, CS Wood Designs, Garland Bags, Grace Graffiti, Eastwind Designs, Planter's Exchange and Wrenn's Hat Bar. Safe Harbor's Thrift Store also joined the market.

The event marked the culmination of the Champions for Children's effort to rally support for Safe Harbor Center throughout the fast and furious eight week campaign. The night was a true testament to the power of community in making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

In an awards ceremony that had everyone on their feet, the thirteen local philanthropic leaders who stepped up to be this year's Champions for Children, were each honored for their efforts.

Mary Katelyn Bland of Bland Farms, took home the third place trophy for her incredible total raised of \$23,161. Ciera Womack of Rich Products Corporation, a long-time corporate partner of Safe Harbor Center, was runner up, securing second place with her grand total reaching \$28,402.

In an amazing moment, Jonathan Jerusalmly of Sea Island Company was crowned as the 2024 Ultimate Champion for Children, raising an incredible \$86,147 – a feat that truly reflects his dedication and passion for those served through the work of Safe Harbor Center. Humble in his acceptance, Jonathan acknowledged not only the efforts of his own team and company, but also those of the inaugural class of 2023 that truly set the bar for his campaign, including past champion Ryanne Carrier who was in attendance. Together with the Campaign Chairs, the 2024

Class presented Board President Peter Feininger and Executive Director Leslie Hartman with a check for \$250,000.

As Safe Harbor Center, the Board of Directors, and the Champions for Children Campaign Chairs celebrate this historic achievement, they extend their gratitude to all participants, sponsors, donors, and supporters who have played a part in making this campaign a success.

Over the course of the past eight weeks, all thirteen champions spearheaded various fundraising initiatives, from chef's table events, progressive dinner parties, cocktail receptions, children's parties, art openings, game nights, silent discos, and exciting raffles. Amplified by the support of over 50 local businesses and an incredible roster of sponsors, Champions for Children 2024 was a truly interactive affair showcasing community support.

"Our second year of the Champions for Children campaign engaged supporters in diverse philanthropic efforts across Glynn, Camden and Wayne counties. Bentley, Kate, and I were deeply moved by the passionate commitment and generosity of the individuals and businesses across this tri-county region which truly highlight the power of collective action," said Lizzie Piazza, one of three Champions for Children campaign chairs. "In working together to create a brighter future for our children, we are forging the bedrock for our community's prosperity for generations to come."

The funds raised will provide critical support to Safe Harbor Center's mission, offering advocacy and counseling services, emergency assistance and maintaining the full-time Children's Residence and Emergency Children's Shelter.

"We are humbled by the overwhelming success of this year's campaign," said Leslie Hartman, Executive Director of Safe Harbor Center. "The generosity of our champions and the community at large has exceeded all expectations, ensuring that Safe Harbor Center can continue its vital work of transforming lives of at-risk youth and individuals in Coastal Georgia."

For further information or media inquiries, please contact Michelle Spooner- Safe Harbor Director of Development (912)267-6000 x114 or development@safeharborcenterinc.org.

Champions for Children, Class of 2024

Mary Katelyn Bland, Bland Farms, \$23,161

Brooke Carter, Banker Real Estate, \$20,737

Gina Copeland, Southeast Georgia Health System, \$6,520

Kyle Fox, Ph.D., College of Coastal Georgia, \$7,007

Chris Gantt, Reid's Apothecary, \$5,155

Rowdy Gregg, Rowdy Hair Services, \$6,912

Maggie Hughes, Maggie Hughes Events, \$3,754

Jonathan Jerusalmly, Sea Island Company, \$86,147

Ken King & Jimmie Nell Tate, King Timber Company, \$5,095

Megan Torello, Megan Torello Art LLC, \$19,324

Jacquie Wheeler, Coldwell Banker Access Realty, \$12,546

Ciera Womack, Rich Products Corporation, \$28,402

Heather Woodard, Director of New Roots Glynn, RCO, \$3,364

Additional support generated in excess of \$23,000 for the campaign.