



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DUET'S 20TH ANNUAL POINSETTIA TEA A SUCCESS
FUNDRAISING EFFORT BREAKS 6-FIGURES

(Phoenix, AZ) – For only the second time in **Duet's** nearly 30-year history, its 20th Annual Poinsettia Tea fundraiser surpassed the six-figure mark to net more than \$115,000 in support of the organization. **Duet** is a local, non-profit organization that provides free-of-charge services to older adults and their families as they face challenges related to aging.

500 guests attended the event held Sunday, December 5, in Scottsdale. Inspired by a “challenge gift” that would match up to \$25,000 raised, attendees contributed over \$49,000 during a live “request for donations.”

Duet supporter and long-time volunteer Pauline Finney provided the “challenge gift” in memory of her husband Jerry who passed away earlier this year. Finney announced she would match up to \$25,000 donated. Following guests’ enthusiastic response, Finney increased her gift to \$40,000. Attendees gave Finney a standing ovation. Additional dollars were raised through sponsorships, underwriting, ticket sales and a drawing.

“We are so very pleased to break the six-figure mark for a second year,” said Elizabeth Banta, Executive Director for Duet. “We are deeply grateful for Pauline’s support and her gift is an especially touching way to remember her husband Jerry. On behalf of all the older adults and families who will receive services because of these donations, we are sincerely thankful.”

Finney said, “Duet is an incredible organization. I have been blessed to be able to do this in my husband’s memory. Of the many organizations my husband supported, Duet was his favorite.” She added, “Give what you can. Not more than you can, but what you can. Lots of people need your help.”

Also during the Tea, Duet presented long-time volunteer Cille Swaback with the prestigious Dosia Carlson *KARED About Award*. Swaback has been an active Duet volunteer for 16 years – serving on the Poinsettia Tea Committee. Swaback’s involvement has helped bring in tremendous financial support and new volunteers. Leading by example, her attention to detail has made the Poinsettia Tea a special and meaningful event. This award is presented to a volunteer who brings Duet’s mission to life.

Guests were treated to an outstanding performance by an ensemble from the Scottsdale Chorus which was directed by Lori Lyford. Maryanne Kremer-Ames provided classical guitar music. Destry Jetton, Channel 12’s Arizona Midday Host, served as master of ceremonies.

Sponsors for the event included: **Gold Sponsors \$3,000** – SRP, Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona. **Celebrating Generations Silver Sponsor, \$1,500** – Dorothea Clarke. **Silver Sponsors \$1,500** – Amedisys Home Health Care of Surprise; Area Agency on Aging – Region One; Beatitudes Campus, Carefree Transitions, LLC, Judy Rough, Home Instead Senior Care, Kile Law Group, P.C., Don and Sandy Lebowitz, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney – Chris Kissel and Ty Sell, North Phoenix Pediatric Dentistry, SCF Arizona, Vern and Cille Swaback.

Proceeds from the Tea will be “poured” into Duet’s one-on-one services that are provided free-of-charge to people in need. Duet is a non-profit, interfaith organization that promotes health and well-being through a broad range of services to homebound adults, caregivers, faith communities and grandparents raising grandchildren.

To volunteer, donate, or ask for help, go to www.duetaz.org or call (602) 274-5022.

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