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**MIRACLES FOR KIDS' 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NIGHT OF MIRACLES GALA  
RAISES A RECORD-BREAKING \$1.8 MILLION FOR FAMILIES IN NEED**

*100% of the funds raised will directly benefit critically-ill children and their families*

Tustin, CA (October 15, 2019) – On Saturday, October 12, 2019, nonprofit organization [Miracles for Kids](#) raised a record-breaking \$1.8 million at its signature Annual Night of Miracles Gala. 100% of the funds raised during the evening will go toward their mission to improve the lives of critically-ill children and their families in need. Themed this year “Rock the Miracle,” the 2019 Night of Miracles Gala was presented by Xponential Fitness and welcomed over 500 of Southern California’s most influential business leaders and philanthropists at the picturesque Monarch Beach Resort in Dana Point.

"This year’s gala showcased the extraordinary generosity of our community. The Miracles for Kids family is beyond thankful to our group of sponsors, donors, volunteers, and supporters - not only after special evenings like this, but every day." notes Autumn Strier, Co-founder & CEO of Miracles for Kids. "Their generosity and support of our mission allows us to continue to make everyday miracles in the lives of critically-ill children and their families in desperate need."

This year’s gala stage welcomed Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter and actress, Michelle Williams. Known worldwide as an active philanthropist and supporter of children’s causes, she took the “Rock the Miracle” theme to heart by inspiring guests with a powerful musical performance directed by Adam Blackstone and Omar Ewdards, whose credits include composing and touring for artists such as Jay-Z, Beyonce, Khalid, J-Lo and Justin Timberlake. Williams’ moving opening rendition of “This is Me” backed by a 20-person choir set the tone of the evening, which shined a light on the difficult journey Miracles for Kids’ families face while fighting for their child’s life – including bankruptcy, homelessness, hunger and depression. Miracles for Kids takes on these challenges and provides meaningful solutions that create financial and emotional stability for the children and families served.

Miracles for Kids could not serve the 250+ families with children battling 140+ unique illnesses across four affiliate hospitals from Orange County to the Bay Area without the support of every sponsor, donor and volunteer – many of whom were in the room. This includes Anthony (CEO) & Lindsey Geisler and the team at Xponential Fitness, who were this year’s presenting sponsor and is the fastest growing boutique fitness franchise with more than 1,500 studios open nationwide. The Geislers are long-time friends and supporters of Miracles for Kids, and energized the whole room by raising their paddle THREE times during the lively Fund-a-Family portion of the evening for a total of donation of \$250,000!

The special evening was also made possible by an impressive list of lead sponsors which included Martin Katz Jewelers, whose exquisite designs have been the Featured Opportunity Item for over five years. This year’s item, a topaz and diamond bracelet trio valued at \$27,000, was won by Sho Fusco. NOLET’S Spirits USA also returned for their 14<sup>th</sup> year as the exclusive spirit sponsor of the evening with a hosted a bar featuring NOLET’S Silver Dry Gin and Ketel One Family Made Vodka.

New to the lead sponsorship lineup was McLaren Newport Beach, whose on-display \$300,000+ red 720S Spider was a photo highlight of the evening, contributing to the excitement of their donated McLaren LA

Weekend Getaway in the Live Auction; and La Adelita Tequila, which hosted a tequila bar and signature cocktail for guests.

Each year, Miracles for Kids also recognizes an outstanding supporter whose passion and dedication has made a significant impact in the lives of Miracles for Kids' families. The 2019 Miracle Maker Honoree was Tim Smith, founder & Principal of The Smith Group – Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. For nearly a decade, Smith has dedicated his personal and professional time, energy, and resources to serve Miracles for Kids' children and families. Smith continues to grow in his support of the organization and is a vital piece of the Miracles for Kids family.

“Miracles for Kids children are facing unimaginable obstacles and it means the world to be able to make even the smallest difference in the lives of these families – this is why I first became involved with Miracles for Kids and why I continue to work hard in support of the organization,” notes Smith. “I am honored to be named this year's Miracle Maker and to be a part of the Miracles for Kids team and look forward to continuing to work alongside this incredible organization to positively impact those who need it the most.”

Additionally, Josh Harper of Waves of Impact was named the Inaugural Champion of Children Honoree for his ability to bring smiles to the faces of children at Miracles for Kids year after year. As a longtime volunteer and friend of the organization, Harper has helped build the Miracles for Kids Surf & Paddle Summer Camps into the expansive wellness programs they are today – a time when children and families can enjoy a day at the beach filled with joy, laughter, confidence building and healing - away from the doctors and hospitals.

Further highlighting how Miracles for Kids helps was the annual patient-family video premiere – this year featuring The Hunter Family Story, produced by TRAFFIK. The short video showcased the family's decade-long journey and how Miracles for Kids provided a much-needed safety net to a single mother while her critically-ill child, Zoe Hunter, was fighting for her life.

Hunter was diagnosed with a rare form of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (Ph+ ALL) at the age of four and endured rounds of chemotherapy, weekly lab visits, monthly infusions, and extended hospital stays. Miracles for Kids provided the Hunter Family with monthly aid that helped with the family's car and rent payments and also provided quarterly deliveries of fresh food, home goods, and other basic needs. Now 15 years old and a JV Cheerleader for her high school, Hunter has been in remission since 2015. She is able to live a “normal” teenage girl's life at a school where few are aware of her story.

Last year's patient-family video premiere told the inspiring story of Moises Alvarez, who was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma in 2015 during his junior year of high school and underwent over six surgeries to remove 100+ tumors. Unfortunately, Alvarez very recently lost his battle, but left a lasting impact on everyone he knew, including many of those at the gala. Smith used his time at the podium as the 2019 Miracle Maker Honoree to honor Moises and his strength with a speech that encouraged gala guests to challenge themselves and to never miss an opportunity to give back.

Guests this year did give back – in unprecedented numbers. In addition to the Geislars' exciting \$250,000 gift, David Heil, Miracles for Kids Board Member and David-August Founder, CEO, & Creative Director, and his table gifted \$100,000. The exciting live auction broke records with the sale of two 8-week-old Bernadoodle puppies for a total of \$28,000, VIP 2020 Masters Tournament Experiences for \$50,000, a Marvel Black Widow VIP Film Premiere Experience for \$11,000 and three custom David August clothing packages for a total of \$30,000.

Notable guests in attendance included director / producer Joseph McGinty Nichol, known professionally as McG; California State Treasurer, Fiona Ma; the co-president of Marvel Studios, Louis D'Esposito; former USC football quarterback and current Fox Sports' Analyst, Matthew Leinart; among many other influential business leaders – all gathering to Rock the Miracle for critically-ill kids and families in need.

**Photos available at:** <http://bit.ly/nom19press>

### **More About Xponential Fitness**

Xponential Fitness is the curator of the best brands across every vertical in the boutique fitness industry – including Pilates, cycle, stretch, dance and rowing. We have decades of boutique fitness franchising experience across all of our brands, we have the resources and network to dominate every boutique fitness category. Currently, Xponential Fitness' portfolio of brands includes Club Pilates, the nation's largest and fastest growing Pilates franchise, CycleBar, the first and only premier indoor cycling franchise, L.A.-based StretchLab, a concept offering one-on-one assisted- stretching services, Row House, a rowing concept that provides an incredibly effective and efficient workout centered around the comradery and drive fostered by the sport of rowing, AKT, a dance-based cardio workout founded by Celebrity Trainer Anna Kaiser, YogaSix, a modern fitness boutique offering a fresh perspective on one of the world's oldest practices, Pure Barre, the largest barre brand in the world and most recently, Stride, a treadmill based cardio & strength workout.

### **More About the Hunter Family**

At just four years old, Zoe Hunter was diagnosed with a rare form of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (Ph+ ALL) – a form of leukemia in which a genetic mutation makes an abnormal protein that helps leukemia cells to grow.

Zoe's mother, Suzanne, was a single mother at the time of diagnosis and sole provider. She faced financial struggles as the hours she was able to work were limited as a result of the intense treatment and care Zoe required. After taking care of the medical bills, there was never enough money left for food, rent, transportation, or other basic needs. Living in fear of a third foreclosed home, the Hunter family connected with Miracles for Kids who provided them with monthly aid through the Bill Pay Program that helped Suzanne keep up with her car payments so she had transportation to take Zoe to and from the hospital. Additional monthly aid helped cover rent so the family would not be evicted. They also received quarterly deliveries of fresh food, home goods and other basic necessities through the Basket of Miracles Program. When Zoe was well-enough, she also participated in wellness activities like the Surf & Paddle Summer Camp.

Today, Zoe is an exceptional high school student who enjoys cheerleading on the JV team and has been in remission since 2015.

### **More About Miracles for Kids**

Miracles for Kids is one of the only organizations on the West Coast providing monthly financial assistance, subsidized housing, mental health services and wellness activities to families with a critically-ill child. The services help to create stability when families are crumbling from the financial and emotional devastation of fighting for their child's life. Founded in 2002, Miracles for Kids has a main office in Tustin, CA and a subsidized housing complex, Miracle Manor, in Orange, CA. To learn more about how Miracles for Kids has joined forces with parents and loved ones, visit [www.miraclesforkids.org](http://www.miraclesforkids.org).

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