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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

21 women and 6 young women are to be honored at the annual Women of Achievement Awards on March 27, 2024

Cribs for Kids to host the 17th annual Women of Achievement Awards in celebration of Women's History Month in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, Pa: The 17th annual Women of Achievement Awards, hosted by Heather Abraham of KDKA's Pittsburgh Today Live and Talk Pittsburgh, celebrates Women's History Month in Pittsburgh and highlights the achievements of successful, prominent women from the region.

Cribs for Kids will honor 22 Women of Achievement and 6 Junior Women of Achievement at this year's Women of Achievement event. They will also award the Laura Ditka Award for Advocacy and Service and the national Making a Difference Award. The Laura Ditka Award for Advocacy and Service honors a woman that has dedicated her time to advocating for women and children. The National Making a Difference Award celebrates women who have spent their lives and careers serving others.

"We are honored to recognize these renowned women who are changing their communities and Pittsburgh. Their work and efforts inspire all those who encounter them, and we thank them for all they have accomplished. We would also like to thank the volunteers, staff, sponsors, attendees, and all those who have helped make this event possible," said Judith A. Bannon, Founder, and CEO of Cribs for Kids.

The awards ceremony will take place on **Wednesday, March 27, 2024, from 6:00 -9:00 pm** at The Omni William Penn Hotel Grand Ballroom. In addition to the awards ceremony, the event will feature a networking cocktail hour, a sit-down dinner, and a silent auction. This year's Women of Achievement Awards title sponsors are UPMC, Pittsburgh Penguins, and Highmark/AHN.

Tickets are available at <https://woa24.givesmart.com/>. All proceeds from the awards ceremony will benefit Cribs for Kids.

2024 DISTINGUISHED HONOREES INCLUDE:

Dr. Shanea Clancy, DNP, EMBA-H, RN, CARN-AP, FIAAN: Clancy Consulting Services

Kaitlin Cobourne, PhD, RN, CNE, CNEd: South College

Renee' Coyner: Business Development and Strategy Executive

Chaunda Cunningham: Healthy Start, Inc.

Roxanne Elizabeth Epperson: Women Against Abusive Relationships (WAAR)

Sunnie Fenk: Thermo Fisher Scientific and getWITit Pittsburgh Chapter

Carolina D. Frantz: Duquesne University

Madalyn Gottschalk: UPMC

Carey A Harris: Literacy Pittsburgh

Dr. Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew: Allegheny Health Network / Highmark Health / Drexel University / JUST WONDOOR

Susan Lautenbacher, Ph.D.: Lark Enterprises, Inc.

Ariel Meadows: Bridgeway Capital

Maria Montaño: Office of the Mayor Ed Gainey

Delvina Lorraine Morrow, VP Community Affairs & DEI: Pittsburgh Penguins

Michelle Pagano Heck: Nonprofit Talent

Raquelle Pakutz: Zen Freight Solutions

Tonja Smith: Allegheny Community Home Care

Tracy Staller, PNC-Certified Women's Business Advocate: PNC Bank

Dr. Tamara Thornhill, LPC, MBA, CCTP, NCC: The Community Mental Health Collective

Laura Ditka Award for Advocacy & Service

Laura Ley Carlson: Allegheny Health Network

National Woman of Achievement: Making A Difference Award

Maura Hanke: Charlie's Kids

Junior Women of Achievement Honorees

Eshal Ahmad: The Pink Dragonfly

Merris Gable: Pajama Pals, Inspired Women Paying It Forward

Sophia Gerardi: One Box at a Time

Abigail Ann Hall: The Ribbon Girls and Woolslair Elementary School

Bristol Joseph: Magical Milkweed Market, LLC

Nikhita Thakuria: Quills and Keyboards (International Nonprofit)

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About the Women of Achievement Awards - Founded in 2002 by Bonnie DeCarlo and JoAnn Forrester, the Women of Achievement Awards is an event honoring Western Pennsylvania's most outstanding women who have demonstrated a commitment to the betterment of their communities, excellence in their professional fields or outstanding accomplishments for the advancement of women. The annual awards ceremony raises funds for Cribs for Kids.

About Cribs for Kids - Cribs for Kids is a national infant safe-sleep education program that helps to reduce the risk of injury and death of infants due to accidental suffocation, asphyxia, or undetermined causes in unsafe sleeping environments. Since 1998, Cribs for Kids has been making an impact on reducing the rate of infant sleep-related deaths by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of practicing safe sleep and providing portable cribs to families who otherwise cannot afford a safe place for their babies to sleep. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, Cribs for Kids currently has over 1800 partners throughout the United States implementing infant safe-sleep programs in their communities.

Visit <https://cribsforkids.org/> for more information.

Note to editors: For more information, news and perspectives from Cribs for Kids, journalists, and analysts may call 412-322-5680, ext.104. Web links, telephone numbers, and titles were correct at the time of publication but may have changed.

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