



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 4/3/18

Media Contact: Adele Pincock, Community Engagement Director
adele@dovecenter.org

DOVE Center Annual Gala raises record funds, pays tribute to Kristy Manzanares

ST. GEORGE, UTAH – Over 250 guests gathered at the Sunriver Community Center to celebrate DOVE Center’s Annual Gala, entitled “Stand Together: It’s up to us to end abuse.” By the end of the evening, DOVE had raised over \$125,000—substantially more than any previous year. The record amount was raised through sponsorships, ticket sales, a silent auction and “Fund a Need” donations.

The Gala was held in memory of Kristy Manzanares, the St. George woman who was killed in a domestic violence incident in 2017. In attendance were family and friends of Manzanares, including Manzanares’ mother, who spoke to how pleased Kristy would be with the gift of giving because she, herself, was such a giver.

Executive Director Lindsey Boyer offered a touching tribute to Manzanares, saying, “Because of the impression she left on her loved ones and her community, Kristy’s lively spirit remains, and will continue to touch the hearts of many to come.”

The evening began with a social hour and silent auction, followed by a dinner and a program. Ruth Weniger, President of the Board of Directors, spoke to DOVE’s mission and to the merge of DOVE Center and Erin’s House. The merge has allowed DOVE to offer much needed long-term housing resources to survivors.

Weniger also premiered DOVE’s latest video project, featuring Mayor Pike of St. George, Mayor Ken Neilson of Washington City, Mayor Rick Rosenberg of Santa Clara and Mayor Chris Hart of Ivins City. In the video, mayors asked viewers to “Join Us”, in taking a stand against domestic violence.

Keynote speaker Victor Rivas Rivers gave a moving speech of his own experience with domestic abuse, which occurred when he was young boy, in the form of violent acts from his father. Now, an activist, accomplished actor and a former athlete of the Miami Dolphins, he spoke to the angels in his life that graced him with the resources to break the cycle of abuse.

DOVE Center relies heavily on funds raised at their annual Galas to be able to continue offering support and resources to those who need them. DOVE services and programs include: crisis intervention, advocacy, emergency shelter and housing assistance,

relocation assistance, and trauma recovery counseling. They serve primarily Washington and Kane counties.

To learn more about donating and volunteering, or to access information and resources concerning domestic violence, visit www.dovecenter.org or call DOVE's 24-hour helpline, [435-628-0458](tel:435-628-0458).

• • •

Note for the editor: DOVE Center is a 501.c.3 not-for-profit organization committed to cultivating an informed community free from domestic and sexual violence. Our mission is to empower survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault through education and resources to increase safety and promote healing from trauma. For more information go to www.dovecenter.org.



Tableware at the annual DOVE Center Gala, March 24, 2018, St. George, UT. (Photo by Katelyn Marie Photography)