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**SHINING A LIGHT ON SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**VIRGINIA BEACH, VA** – Samaritan House will be rolling out the red carpet to empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence, trafficking, and homelessness on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The *Step Into the Light* gala will be hosted at Rivers Casino Portsmouth, serving as a celebration and testament to the resilience of these survivors. Local dignitaries from Portsmouth and surrounding localities will be in attendance, showing their support for community members impacted by domestic violence.

Guests will take the evening to step back in time while enjoying live music from the nationally renowned B.J. Griffin Band, cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and compelling stories of triumph over adversity. The event's silent auction will be hosted online with availability to the public to place bids. Auction items include vacations, local experiences, artwork, and autographed memorabilia, featuring items from Executive Producer of *Sandlot* and *G.I. Jane*, Chris Zarpas.

"Our *Step Into the Light* gala is more than an evening to raise donations for our programs – it is a celebration of resilience, courage, and the unwavering strength of survivors of domestic violence. We are deeply grateful to our supporters, who alongside us, are helping to raise the voices of survivors in our community and provide hope to those in need of help," said Robin Gauthier, Executive Director of Samaritan House.

*Step Into the Light* is generously presented by Rivers Casino Portsmouth, ABNB Federal Credit Union, Langley for Families, TowneBank, and The GBS Group.

Learn more about the *Step Into the Light* gala at <https://samaritanhouseva.org/gala>.

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**ABOUT SAMARITAN HOUSE:** Since 1984, Samaritan House has been helping people free themselves from domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and homelessness by providing emergency and permanent housing, support services and community outreach. For additional information, visit: [www.samaritanhouseva.org](http://www.samaritanhouseva.org)