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MEDIA ALERT

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New Life Center Welcomes Two New Board of Directors: Retired NFL Linebacker and Defensive End Matthew Shaughnessy and Inter-Governmental Program Manager Angela Willeford

GOODYEAR, AZ – New Life Center’s Board of Directors is proud to announce the addition of two new members, Matthew Shaughnessy and Angela Willeford.

The Board voted to accept Shaughnessy and Willeford onto New Life Center’s Board at their November 29th meeting.

Shaughnessy, a recently retired NFL Linebacker & Defensive End, is not only active in the community but is an advocate for survivors of domestic violence. Born and raised in Norwich, Connecticut, Shaughnessy was the recipient of the 2015 “Native Son,” an honor in his hometown that recognized his community involvement and professional success.

Shaughnessy studied Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and upon graduation, was drafted in the NFL’s third round by the Oakland Raiders. After four years in Oakland, Shaughnessy signed with the Arizona Cardinals and finished his career of seven years with the New Orleans Saints.

He is currently an EMT and is pursuing a career in the Fire Service. Shaughnessy lives in Chandler, Arizona with his wife and two children.

According to Shaughnessy, he “jumped at the chance” to join New Life Center’s Board of Directors to help make a difference and change people’s perceptions.

“I feel like there is a stigma surrounding the NFL when it comes to domestic violence. I want to paint another picture and bring awareness to this issue,” said Shaughnessy, who also indicated he has volunteered at another domestic violence shelter previously. “My wife and I are trying to plant roots in our community and we want to give back.”

Willeford is a Graduate of Arizona State University with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a concentration in Political Science and Communications.

“Domestic violence is a serious community concern. I have a loud voice and I want to use it to advocate for human rights and survivors of domestic violence,” said Willeford.

Willeford currently works in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs as the Inter-governmental Program Manager. She is currently working on a master’s degree in law at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. She is married to her high school sweetheart and has three children.

“I am incredibly excited about our new additions to New Life Center’s Board of Directors,” said Mike Weinstein, President of New Life Center’s Board. “Both Matt and Angela will prove to be valuable assets in our quest to help those victimized by domestic violence.”

New Life Center has been a comprehensive provider of domestic violence emergency shelter since its founding in 1991. Emergency shelter and outreach services are provided to more than 1,000 children and adults fleeing domestic violence each year. More than 70% of New Life Center’s shelter population is under the age of 16. Programs at New Life Center empower families to live independent, violence-free lives and help survivors heal from the trauma of domestic violence.

For more information about the work of New Life Center, visit www.newlifectr.org.

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