

ACTRESS AND ACTIVIST BELLAMY YOUNG TO HEADLINE JONATHAN'S PLACE ANNUAL LUNCHEON

*Former Mavs CEO Cynt Marshall will moderate the conversation for a nonprofit that
"reminds us of the profound impact we can have when we stand together."*

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DALLAS (March 14, 2025) - Jonathan's Place, a nonprofit organization that provides vulnerable youth and families with a safe place to begin to heal and thrive, will host its 2025 ["A Chance to Soar" Luncheon](#) on March 14. Acclaimed activist, actress, and singer Bellamy Young, who played First Lady Mellie Grant on the hit TV show "Scandal," will serve as guest speaker.

Each year, this luncheon provides vital support to advance the Jonathan's Place mission to offer a safe place, loving homes, and promising futures for abused and neglected children. Fundraising from the luncheon will support an emergency shelter, child sex trafficking, transitional and maternity housing, educational opportunities, mental health services, and more for young people struggling to rebuild their lives after trauma.

"As we gather this year, our need for support is greater than ever," says CEO Allicia Graham Frye. "Since Jonathan's Place opened its doors in 1994, it has cared for more than 7,800 abused and neglected children, teens, and young adults empowering them to envision brighter futures. With the support from this community, we are able to provide food, clothing, shelter, education, and medical and mental health services to the children in our care."

In addition to raising vital funds for Jonathan's Place, the luncheon will spotlight the most vulnerable and inspire North Texans to work together to empower a more compassionate society. Former Dallas Mavericks CEO Cynthia "Cynt" Marshall, will moderate the luncheon.

"I had an amazing mother who fought to keep a roof over my head," says Marshall. "But it wasn't easy, and providing shelter, food, and security is no small task, even in today's world. Jonathan's Place starts by meeting a basic human need — literal shelter from the storm — and then offers a community of support to help children and young people thrive. This organization does the kind of transformative work that reminds us of the profound impact we can have when we stand together in service of one another. I'm looking forward to this incredible event, which will ensure Allicia and her team can continue to offer vital services to local youth in need."

The luncheon also will honor Texas State Sen. Royce West, a dedicated public servant who has fought to expand access to healthcare, sustain education programs that promote upward mobility, and strengthen Dallas communities. He will receive the Jonathan's Place Humanitarian Award.

About Jonathan's Place

Jonathan's Place serves children, teens, and young adults who have experienced abuse and neglect by providing support, care, and resources ranging from emergency shelter and transitional housing to education and training programs and therapeutic services. The nonprofit also provides family therapy, parenting training, and other support for adults. In the community, Jonathan's Place actively works to raise awareness about abuse and

neglect and promote the well-being and safety of children and families in North Texas.

About Alicia Graham Frye

Alicia Graham Frye became the chief executive officer of Jonathan's Place in May 2011. She previously was the senior director of programs for The Volunteer Center of North Texas. Prior to that work, she was vice president of support services for The Children's Shelter in San Antonio, TX. Alicia has worked for various for-profit companies such as Helen of Troy, AT&T/Cingular Wireless, and L'Oreal USA. She has also worked for the U.S. government in a civil service position while living overseas in Europe. Alicia currently serves as the board president of the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services, on the EMPOWER board of directors, and with the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Child Welfare Innovation Working Group in Washington, D.C. She previously served on the Texas Network of Youth Services Board, the National Safe Place Advisory Board, Leadership San Antonio, and the League of Women Voters.

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About Jonathan's Place

Jonathan's Place provides critical supportive services to children who have been victims of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Through emergency shelter, foster care, adoption, and child sex trafficking, transitional living programs, homeless pregnant teens, Jonathan's Place is committed to providing a safe place, loving homes and promising futures for abused and neglected children, teens, and young adults. To learn more, visit jpkids.org

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