



BLOSSOM

Beautiful. Resilient. Confident. She has blossomed.

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BLOSSOM Fashion Show to be Hosted by TV Personality Nigel Barker and Feature Hollywood Glam Stylings by Janet Mandell

WINGS event will honor Whitney Reynolds and Spread Awareness to Domestic Violence Through Fashion

CHICAGO (February 19, 2025) – Rolling out the red carpet, WINGS presents the 2nd Annual BLOSSOM fashion show on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 21c Museum Hotel in Chicago at 6:00pm. Produced by **Zzazz Productions**, the runway will feature Hollywood glam gowns by **Janet Mandell**. The show will once again be hosted by **Nigel Barker**, internationally renowned photographer and judge on the hit TV show *America's Next Top Model*. The event will also honor **Whitney Reynolds**, Host and Executive Producer of the Emmy-nominated *Whitney Reynolds Show*. Survivors of domestic violence will walk the runway and all proceeds from BLOSSOM will be used to **launch new domestic violence programming** and critical support services on the North Shore and beyond.

One in three women and one in four men are affected by domestic violence in their lifetime, according to the CDC's Division of Violence Prevention. Despite the statistics which prove this is a pervasive global problem, it is still a subject that is very difficult for many to discuss. BLOSSOM aims to break down these barriers.

"I never thought I would be in a relationship where there was domestic violence. However, it DID happen to me, and it can happen to anyone, of any background. **The message of BLOSSOM is that survivors of domestic violence can feel beautiful, resilient, and confident after their experience.** We are celebrating victories over domestic violence, erasing the stigma, and coming together to solve this issue in communities that have been overlooked," Tracey Mayer, a development consultant for WINGS, designer, and BLOSSOM organizer. "We believe we can break the cycle if we all work together," said Mayer.

BLOSSOM is possible due to generosity from sponsors and community support. Event sponsors include: Melissa and Michael Canning, Sunitha and Ramana Chamarti, Mr. and Mrs. William Hood, KL Klein Gifting Foundation, TealTie, BMO Wealth Management, Darby Hills & Lauren Brynjelsen, It Ends With Us Movement, April Graves Portrait Artist/Light Drawn Studios, Kelly Miller, Nicole and Tim Kneedy, Elaine Sambo-Reyther, Alex Lyon-Singer. BLOSSOM's in-kind sponsors include: L'Oreal, CS Magazine, Koval, and Ruffino. Joining again this year, the **Chicago Hounds Rugby team will return as special guests** standing in solidarity in the movement to end domestic violence.

Sponsorships and tickets to this exclusive event are limited and selling fast. Guests will enjoy drinks, appetizers, and a special swag bag. To learn more about the event, visit <https://wingsprogram.com/upcoming-event/2nd-annual-blossom-fashion-show/>.

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About WINGS:

With 40 years of experience, WINGS Program, Inc. is a premier provider of domestic violence solutions. As the largest domestic violence agency in Illinois, WINGS creates high-quality, customized, domestic violence programs for survivors of all ages, ethnicities, and gender identities. WINGS programs have provided over one million nights of safe housing, life-changing community-based counseling, award-winning mentoring programs and much more. **Anyone experiencing domestic violence can receive help by calling the 24-hour hotline at 847.221.5680. For more information, visit www.wingsprogram.com.**

The poster for the BLOSSOM Fashion Show is presented by WINGS. It features a central rose logo with a butterfly. The text reads: "BLOSSOM Beautiful. Resilient. Confident. She has blossomed." Below this is "Fashion Show Produced by Zzazz Productions". Three circular portraits are shown: Janet Mandell (Featuring), Nigel Barker (Hosted by), and Whitney Reynolds (Honoring). The date "April 24, 2025" is at the bottom.