



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINGS 40th Anniversary Celebration ***Culinary Extravaganza with Live Music & 40 Hours of Giving Challenge***

CHICAGO (March 12th, 2025) –WINGS Program, Inc. turns 40 this year and offers two ways to participate: WINGS 40th Anniversary Celebration on March 20th at Middleby Residential Showroom in Chicago and WINGS 40 Hours of Giving Challenge on April 25th – 26th.

To honor this milestone, a special event is being held on **Thursday, March 20th at 6:00pm at Middleby Residential Showroom in Chicago**. In addition to recognizing WINGS incredible growth to become the largest provider of domestic violence services in Illinois, attendees will enjoy **cooking demonstrations, live jazz music by Elaine Dame** and her quartet, an **open bar**, raffles including Viking Cookware, and more. This event is possible thanks to event sponsor Middleby Residential. All proceeds from the 40th Anniversary Celebration will be used towards WINGS housing programs and critical support services to domestic violence survivors.

WINGS **40 Hours of Giving Challenge** will start **midnight on Friday, April 25th** and run through **Saturday, April 26th**. Top fundraising teams will receive special recognition. Thanks to a generous \$100,000 match, all donations from new donors and increased giving over last year will be matched. Each team will have their own webpage, making fundraising secure and convenient.

WINGS 40th Anniversary comes at a time of uncertainty and increased contacts to the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline. Currently, 22% of WINGS annual budget comes from federal funding that is in jeopardy while at the same time, the Illinois Statewide Hotline year over year receives more contacts for domestic violence assistance.

Rebecca Darr, WINGS President & CEO for over 26 years shares, "Throughout WINGS **40 years of service to the community, we have overcome many uncertain times:** a recession, a fire that destroyed one of our WINGS Resale stores, a pandemic, and more. Empowered by our community of supporters, we have grown from a grass-roots organization to the largest domestic violence agency in Illinois. **These 40th Anniversary events celebrate our collective impact: over a million nights of safe housing** provided and **thousands of families** who have broken the cycle of abuse."

Sponsorships, raffle tickets, and event tickets to WINGS 40th Anniversary Celebration can be purchased here: <https://wingsprogram.com/upcoming-event/wings-40th-anniversary-celebration/> More information about WINGS 40 Hours of Giving can be found here: <https://wingsprogram.com/wings-40-hours-of-giving-starts-friday-april-25th/>

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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.**



WINGS 40th Anniversary Celebration will take place at Middleby Residential Showroom.