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Moving the Vision Forward: 2016 Annual Tribute Luncheon and Legends Awards Reception focuses on strategic plan to reduce poverty and honors visionary women of Memphis

Robin Meade, “Host of HLN’s Morning Express w/ Robin Meade” is Featured Keynote Speaker

MEMPHIS, TN – With the theme “Moving the Vision Forward,” the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) will host its Annual Tribute Luncheon and Legends Award Reception in April. The signature fundraising events celebrate the legacy of philanthropy, leadership, and collaboration, bringing together more than 1,600 guests to honor women who have made significant contributions to the Greater Memphis community, and whose work embodies the mission of WFGM.

The Annual Tribute Luncheon will be held Friday, April 29 from 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at the Memphis Cook Convention Center Grand Ball Room. All proceeds from this year’s Tribute Luncheon will benefit WFGM grant-making and the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan to reduce poverty by five percent over five years in the 38126 zip code, where 62 percent of adults and 76 percent of children live at or below the poverty line, more than double and almost triple the rate consecutively of the city (28 percent). The presenting sponsor is FedEx. Individual seats are $125.

The Legends Award Reception will be held Thursday, April 21 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at The Columns at One Commerce Square. The presenting Sponsor is Baptist Memorial Hospital. Individual seats are $50.

“This year, the Legends Award Reception will pay homage to a dynamic group of committed women who have touched the lives of thousands of Memphians through decades of philanthropy. Their life works span through the arts, business and education,” said Ruby Bright, Executive Director of the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis. “We look forward to highlighting their achievements.”

2016 Legends Award honoree Honey Scheidt, will receive the Philanthropy and Leadership Award, which is presented to a woman who has made outstanding financial donations to non-profits, has demonstrated leadership through community service and generously volunteers her time and talent to benefit the community.

Linn Sitler, will receive the Innovation Award, which is given to a woman who has transformed her chosen field, served as a role model to other fields and has made a significant impact on not only the interests of her own institution, but also the broader interests of the community.

Beverly C. Robertson, will receive the Catalyst Award, which is given to a visionary woman. The recipient demonstrates selfless dedication to creating positive change in the community through activism, public and civic services, has empowered constituencies, strengthened participation, inspired movements, and/or has instituted an organization or foundation or was the first in her field.

Robin Meade, “Host of HLN’s Morning Express w/ Robin Meade” will serve as the featured keynote speaker for the 2016 Annual Tribute Luncheon. Meade is a broadcast journalist, philanthropist, author and singer-songwriter.

For over 15 years she has reported on many of today’s most pressing issues – from world events to momentous pop culture occurrences. Her body of work includes, New York Times best sellers, Emmy Awards and debut country music albums. Through her philanthropic endeavors, Robin has become a strong and confident role model for young women and aspiring journalists. Robin Meade is a graceful guiding force for 21st century women.

“What really struck me is the number of women and children, every year, who receive help from the Women’s Foundation for A Greater Memphis. If that's the number who get help, that means that the need is even greater,” Meade said. “I think
about the child whose daily experience is probably a struggle from sun up to sun down; whether it be for food, a place to sleep, or a school that helps them thrive. And then I think about the mother, stressed and trying to stay afloat. If we can help that mom realize her and her family's full potential, then let's do so, and amplify that with a can-do spirit.”

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information and to purchase tickets visit [www.wfgm.org](http://www.wfgm.org).

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**About the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis**—Founded in 1995, The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization focused on improving the wellbeing of more than 17,000 economically vulnerable women and their families annually through philanthropy and grant making initiatives, collaboration and leadership.

**About Robin Meade**—Popular TV host, New York Times best-selling author and singer-songwriter Robin Meade is the longtime anchor of HLN's Morning Express with Robin Meade with two music albums to her name. Before joining CNN Headline News (now HLN) Robin anchored and reported at Chicago's WMAQ, Miami's WSVN, Columbus' WCMH, Cleveland's WJW and Mansfield's WMFD. The Ohio native and former Miss Ohio graduated from Ashland University in Radio/TV Production, Performance and Programming and Political Science. She won the Young Alumnus Award (2005), was inducted into the Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame (2005) and bestowed the prestigious Gracie Award for Outstanding Anchor (2010) previously given to Katie Couric.

Robin feels strongly about such causes or foundations as, St. Jude, Fisher House Foundation, Dress For Success, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the TJ Martell Foundation, and K9s For Warriors among others. She and her husband live in Atlanta, Georgia, along with their three rescue pups.

**About Honey Scheidt**—When budget cuts threatened the well-being of the eighteen library branches in the Greater Memphis Area, Honey went to the mayor and city hall and served as a mediator to retain funding. Honey was instrumental in bringing the Ramses the Great exhibition from Egypt first to Memphis and then throughout the United States. Honey works with the students from the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, is a founding member of the Memphis Library Foundation Board of Directors and was instrumental in raising funds to construct the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library.

**About Linn Sitler**—For the past 29 years, Linn Sitler has been making an economic and creative impact on the city of Memphis through her position as Memphis & Shelby County Film Commissioner. During her tenure leading the Memphis & Shelby County Film and Television Commission, she has been responsible for an estimated $100 million economic impact and the creation of thousands of jobs. Linn continues to make a difference through recruitment and advocating film-friendly legislation and government film incentives.

**About Beverly C. Robertson**—The recently retired president of the National Civil Rights Museum, for 17 years, Beverly led the museum through a period of monumental growth and development, advancing its presence from a local/regional touchstone to a global icon. Beverly raised $43 million over her tenure at the museum, which included the completion of an expansion of the museum and a capital and endowment campaign. The capital campaign elevated the museum to world class status and enhanced educational programming. Under her leadership, the museum was also in the five percent of museums in the country to earn a 15-year accreditation, became one of the 17 accredited International Coalition Sites of Conscience and was named one of America’s top 10 treasures by USA Today.