

S.T.A.R.S. cancer survivors' storytelling fundraiser to benefit The Joy Bus

Nonprofit restaurant will get boost to serve more cancer patients

Friday, Aug. 9, 2024 (Phoenix, Ariz.) - Cancer survivors are the stars of August 18's live storytelling performance at the Herberger Theater in downtown Phoenix.

S.T.A.R.S. Survivors Tell A Real Story will showcase eight Arizona women who will bravely share their journey from diagnosis to taking their lives back in the form of a 2nd Act. The ways they're giving back to the community prove that the darkest nights produce the brightest stars.

The live storytelling fundraiser returns to the stage for the first time since 2019, having been put on pause due to reorganizing after the pandemic.

Organized by the nonprofit A 2nd Act, this is also the first year ticket sales will benefit The Joy Bus, a 100 percent nonprofit restaurant in Phoenix dedicated to delivering more than a meal to cancer patients.

Since 2011, The Joy Bus has delivered over 800 fresh chef-curated meals per month to cancer patients' homes. Founder and award-winning Food Network Chopped Champion, Jennifer Caraway, explains they have outgrown their previous location and will soon be opening an exciting new 6,700 sq/ft location. The move will help the nonprofit serve more cancer patients, and the success of this fundraiser will go a long way to ensure their future success.

A sampling of the 2024 S.T.A.R.S. cast members includes:

Ashley Plum (Phoenix), who tells the story of losing her hair and identity during breast cancer treatment, but now leads an organization that turned her worldview around.

Marina Blackford (Gilbert), a dental hygienist who qualified and ran the Boston Marathon right after cancer treatment and now inspires other survivors to live their dreams.

Erika Flores (Globe), an educator who survived pediatric cancer which led to infertility, but is now an ardent advocate for foster care.

BE amused ... BE inspired ... just BE there!

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Media Availability

Live, taped, on location, in-studio, Zoom interviews with cancer survivors, organizer, and/or The Joy Bus founder. Dates and times can be flexible.

Saturday, Aug. 10 before 12pm

Sunday, Aug. 11 before 12pm

Thursday, Aug. 15 before 4pm

Interview Location: The Joy Bus (sneak peak into new space)

10401 N 32nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85028

For more information about the S.T.A.R.S. cancer survivors' storytelling fundraiser, please visit <https://starsarizona.org/>.

For more information about the nonprofit benefiting from the fundraiser, visit <https://www.thejoybusdiner.com/>.

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