

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### PHILANTHROPIC MVPS TO BE HONORED AT 36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPIRIT AWARDS

*Kansas City Chiefs' Alex and Elizabeth Smith and Burns and McDonnell to receive 2017 Spirit Awards*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (April 13, 2017) – Each year the Spirit Awards honor those who make Kansas City great through their kindness and generosity to our community. Cornerstones of Care ([formerly Gillis, Healthy Families, Marillac, Ozanam and Spofford](#)) is proud to honor the 2017 recipients at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Spirit Awards Celebration on Saturday, April 22 at the Grand Ballroom at the Kansas City Convention Center.

#### **Alex and Elizabeth Smith, 2017 Spirit Award Winners**

[The Alex Smith Foundation](#) has donated more than \$60,000 to help youth in foster care achieve their academic dreams. Together, the Alex Smith Foundation and Cornerstones of Care's Youth Educational Success program are creating a path of success for youth transitioning out of foster care. Alex and Elizabeth have also leveraged their roles within the Kansas City Chiefs community to provide once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for youth through Cornerstones of Care. Their words of inspiration and encouragement, coupled with the impressive environment, ensured that youth received the fanfare that their accomplishments – many achieved against all odds – deserved.

*Alex and Elizabeth Smith will be available for media interviews at the Spirit Awards on April 22, 2017.*

#### **Burns & McDonnell, 2017 Corporate Spirit Award Winner**

At Burns & McDonnell, employee-owners are committed to the communities in which they live and work, and to nourishing those communities to become healthy and strong. Through the work of the company and the Burns & McDonnell Foundation, they share Cornerstones of Care's passion for specific, targeted efforts. Burns & McDonnell employees swim, walk and run to raise funds. They paint and plant. They create and support exciting educational programs and nurture young people into thinking big.

#### **Further Event Information**

Honorary Chairs are Don and Shea Walsworth. The atmosphere will be celebratory and hopeful – a place where dreams are born and visions for a better community take shape. Catering will be provided by Lon Lane's Inspired Occasions and entertainment by Quixotic and The Magnetics. Individual tickets are \$150. Visit [cornerstonesofcare.org/spiritawards](http://cornerstonesofcare.org/spiritawards) for more information.

#### **About Cornerstones of Care**

Cornerstones of Care has a long legacy of partnering with children, young adults, and families to create safe and healthy communities. Through our decades of trauma-informed expertise, we effect positive change in our communities, raise awareness and give a stronger voice to those in need, and deliver a fully integrated approach to care.

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