



FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE HONORS CHARLANE OLIVER AND ALLISON PLATTSMIER AT 4th ANNUAL FAMILY BISCUIT BREAKFAST

*Two Young Leaders Council Members Receive 2020 Luminary Award
During This Year's Online Celebration and Fundraising Event*

NASHVILLE, TENN. – Aug. 24, 2020 – Pandemic restrictions won't prevent **Family & Children's Service** (FCS) from hosting its **4th Annual Family Biscuit Breakfast** this month. This year's version will take place online and will celebrate the organization's **Luminary Award** recipients, provide an update about what FCS has been doing during 2020's many challenges, and will raise money to support more than 20 social service safety net programs at FCS. This online virtual event will feature email and social media posts from August 25 – 31. The event is made possible by generous presenting sponsorships from **Northwestern Mutual and Integrum Wealth**.

The **Luminary Award for Community Service** recipients for 2020 are **Charlane Oliver** and **Allison Plattsmier**. New this year, the **Luminary Award** is co-sponsored by **Family & Children's Service** and the **Young Leaders' Council**. This award seeks to reinforce and celebrate the Young Leaders Council's mission of **cultivating service and philanthropy among our community of young professionals**. The Luminary Award honors young leaders that have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to community service.

"This year has thrown challenges at us all," said **FCS CEO Michael McSurdy**. "FCS is one of Middle Tennessee's primary providers of counseling, case management and crisis intervention services for our community's most vulnerable people. COVID-19, tornadoes and economic challenges have increased the demand for our services in the community. We need to continue to shine a light on the young community service leaders in our area, and work to raise money to support our important mission, and that's what we are doing in this year's Virtual Family Biscuit Breakfast."

About Charlane Oliver:

Charlane Oliver is co-founder and founding executive director of **The Equity Alliance**, a nonprofit that empowers, equips and mobilizes black voters to be engaged in the civic process. Oliver served as board chair of the organization prior to becoming the executive director, and her leadership in The Equity Alliance has helped to catapult the organization into a nationally recognized powerhouse. Oliver is an award-winning community advocate, respected movement builder, public relations strategist and rising star among Music City's political scene. Even at her young age, Oliver has more than 12 years of experience in nonprofit management, civil service, public relations and communications. She has worked with more than 35 nonprofits and public agencies over the course of her career, and her expertise has led to a track record of taking organizations and programs "from good to great." A graduate of Vanderbilt University and University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Oliver remains active in several community service and professional organizations and boards.

About Allison Plattsmier:

Allison Plattsmier has more than ten years of experience in the nonprofit sector, has worked with more than forty organizations, and helped to raise funds for causes in which she believes. Her work experience includes a role as executive director of **Amputee Blade Runners (ABR)**, associate director of programs and development for the **Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee (TAMT)**, community investment manager for **NeedLink Nashville**, and executive director of the **Jordan Thomas Foundation**. Plattsmier has a strong passion for serving the Nashville community, with specific areas of interest in public health, equal access to public resources for underprivileged and economically disadvantaged populations, and eradicating food insecurity. Plattsmier is a member of several nonprofit organizations. Plattsmier has a history of becoming a national thought leader for causes she champions, and was invited to the White House for her gun violence prevention advocacy. Plattsmier is a Nashville native, dedicated to becoming a leading force for good in her community.

“FCS is in the people business and we have always met people face-to-face—in the places they live and work—to form deep, caring, personal connections,” said McSurdy. “It has been a tremendous challenge to pivot from this high-touch approach to depending almost exclusively on technology to connect with our clients, keeping them and our staff members safe. Our staff have risen to the challenge, and we now serve clients by phone, email, text, and web-based/telehealth platforms. Our goal in all programs is to be as accessible as possible to our current clients and all those in our community experiencing trauma and loss due to the pandemic.”

This year’s sponsors of the Family Biscuit Breakfast include presenting sponsors **Northwestern Mutual** and **Integrum Wealth**. Event sponsors include **Health Connect America, Joni Werthan, Martin & Zerfoss, North Highland, Qdoba, Servpro, Smythe & Cortlandt, Synovus, and TAB**.

To learn more about FCS or donate online to this nonprofit, please go to www.FCSNashville.org.

About FCS

Family & Children’s Service (FCS) serves all people in crisis and transition by meeting them where they are, understanding their needs, and connecting them to the resources they need. FCS often ‘fills in the gaps’ in social services, creating a safety net to ensure that all children and families can be safe and healthy. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, FCS served nearly 50,000 people. FCS mission is to connect individuals and families to hope, to healing, and to one another. Founded in 1943 by volunteers who helped find adoptive homes for children orphaned during WWII, FCS is one of Nashville’s oldest and most venerated nonprofits. Throughout its history, FCS has focused on the most vulnerable children and families, adapting its services to meet the changing needs of the community.

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