News Release

Lifeline, Inc.

PO Box 496, Painesville, OH 44077

(440) 354-2148

carried@lclifeline.org

Celebrity Cast Announced for the 15th Annual Dancing Under the Stars Event
May 21, 2025

PAINESVILLE, Ohio— Save the date for the 15th annual Dancing Under the Stars event, which is being presented by Lifeline, Inc. and the Sexual and Reproductive Health Division of Signature Health. The event will be held on Friday, August 1 at Cleveland Marriott East in Warrensville Heights. This unique dancing event pairs local community, civic, political and corporate personalities with area dance studio professionals in a dance contest. The evening of fun includes a buffet dinner, an open bar and the dance contest which is judged by a professional panel.

Ten local "celebrities" have been paired with local professional dance instructors and are actively developing their dances and raising money. Each celebrity has committed to raise a minimum of $2,500 for the honor of participating in this fundraising event. The dancer who raises the most money will win the 2025 Peoples' Choice award. Donations to the celebrities can be made at https://lifeline.rallyup.com/duts2025.

This year's cast of local celebrities includes:

- Alix Dalheim, Signature Health
- Susan Fatica, Western Reserve Junior Service League
- Mark Gifford, Retired Community Member
- Kim Gilmore, All Contractors Supply and RAW Roofing
- Betty Jacobs, LGBTQ+ Allies Lake County
- Cheryl Kish, Marine Towers West Apartments on the Gold Coast
- Maria Kula, Steris Corporation
- Shane Richards, 1922 Coffee & Brew
- Susan Seacrist, Attorney
- John Skiles, Progressive Insurance and Century 21 Homestar

The professional dance instructors that will be paired with the local celebrities include:

- Sarah Gordon, Rabbit Run Community Arts Association
- Hannah Elizabeth Green, Rabbit Run Community Arts Association
- Trish Pekarcik
- Maggie Runyon
- John Thompson, Studio J Academy of Dance
- Victoria Panainte, Fred Astaire Chagrin Falls
- Gregory Digman, Fred Astaire Chagrin Falls

- Johnathan Gosselin, Fred Astaire Westlake
- Elena Minaeva, Fred Astaire Westlake
- Aleksei Minaev, Fred Astaire Westlake
- Jodi Neu, Fred Astaire Willoughby

The dancers will also be competing for the 2025 Judges' Choice Award, which will be decided by this year's panel of judges that include: 2009 & 2014 Dancing Under the Stars Celebrity and Executive Director at Rabbit Run Community Arts Association, Brint Learned; Professional dancer Calin Panainte of Fred Astaire Dance Studios in Chagrin Falls; and 2019 Dancing Under the Stars Celebrity and local financial planner, Michele Johnson.

Our celebrities will also compete for the Star of the Night Award, which is based on crowd reaction and applause. Tickets will go on sale in early June on our EventBrite site and will be $125/person. Keep an eye on the Dancing Under the Stars Facebook page for the ticket sales announcement.

This year's Event Chair is 2024 Star of the Night Winning Celebrity, Lori Caszatt. The evening's Master of Ceremonies is 2019 Peoples' Choice Award Winning Celebrity Ryan Gilkerson.

All proceeds raised at this fundraiser are donated to the two agencies who work diligently to help our local low-income residents. The partnership between Lifeline and Signature Health's Sexual and Reproductive Health Division was encouraged by a grant from the Cleveland Foundation to promote greater efficiency and effectiveness in nonprofit fundraising through collaboration.

Lifeline is Lake and Geauga Counties' Community Action Agency and leads the fight against poverty by empowering community members to achieve self-sufficiency and by improving the quality of life for all residents. Signature Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving Cuyahoga, Lake, and Ashtabula Counties, cares for both the mind and the body to help individuals realize their full potential. The Sexual and Reproductive Health Division of Signature Health provides health care, including annual exams, a broad range of contraceptive methods, cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infection, and limited prenatal care.