



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2014

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Marjaree Mason Center, Inc. Announces Taylor Armstrong as Featured Keynote Speaker at 31st Annual Top Ten Professional Women and Top Business Awards

Taylor Armstrong, philanthropist and former television personality of Real Housewives of Beverly Hills, speaks to being a survivor of domestic violence

FRESNO, CA (July 7, 2014) – Marjaree Mason Center, Inc., Fresno County’s only dedicated provider of domestic violence shelter and supportive services, including education for victims and youth, announced today that TV personality and philanthropist, Taylor Armstrong, will be the luncheon keynote speaker at the 31st Annual Top Ten Professional Women and Top Business Awards on Friday, October 17, 2014 at Fresno’s Convention Center, New Exhibit Hall from 11:30a-1:00p (doors open at 11:00a).

The 31st Annual Top Ten Professional Women and Top Business Awards, a prestigious awards ceremony honoring local professionals, will bring approximately 800 attendees together with the goal of honoring these outstanding individuals in our community while also raising awareness for domestic violence. This event pays tribute to ten women who have served as role models and given back to their communities, all while making strides in their professions. One business is also honored as the Top Business of the Year for its support of women and women's issues. The Friday, October 17th keynote, Taylor Armstrong, will be sharing her personal battle with domestic violence, and her triumph in becoming a survivor.

“We are absolutely thrilled to host Taylor Armstrong at our annual awards luncheon, as she will share her personal story and expertise on surviving and overcoming family violence,” said Genelle Taylor Kumpe, Marjaree Mason Center’s Executive Director. “Having a nationally recognized public figure to speak out and educate our Valley about such a critical topic is a remarkable step towards our vision to break the cycle and end domestic violence in our community.”

Taylor Armstrong starred in the hit Bravo reality show *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. But Armstrong had her own drama, and behind the glamorous facade of *The Real Housewives* she hid a dark secret: her husband, Russell, had been physically, verbally, and emotionally abusing her for years. Following the familiar pattern of many domestic violence survivors before her, Armstrong had also witnessed domestic violence in her home as a young child - the abuse of her mother at the hands of her father. Thankfully, she was able to break the cycle of violence; after six years of abuse with Russell, she found the courage to leave. Tragically, soon after



Russell took his own life, Armstrong and her young daughter, Kennedy, found themselves starting over while the whole world watched.

Armstrong authored her first book, *Hiding from Reality: My Story of Love, Loss and Finding the Courage Within*, an autobiographical account of her life and personal experience with domestic violence, which became a New York Times bestseller. A longtime advocate for victims of domestic violence, she is a volunteer and spokesperson for the cause.

Taylor Armstrong will be featured on the cover of CV Luxury magazine's July/August issue, hitting newsstands on July 10, 2014. Within her feature, the premier Central Valley magazine will unveil an exclusive photo spread and interview with Armstrong, including more information on her appearance at the Marjaree Mason Center's Top Ten Professional Women and Top Business Awards. To purchase your issue of CV Luxury, visit select Central Valley locations or cvlux.com.

Be sure to join us at the Top Ten Professional Women and Top Business Awards luncheon on Friday, October 17, 2014 from 11:30a-1:00p (doors open at 11:00a) for this amazing keynote and awards ceremony. All Top Ten Professional Women and Top Business Awards nominations are due by 5:00p on Friday, July 11, 2014. Sponsorship commitment deadline and date that ticket price increases by \$10.00 is September 30, 2014. To purchase tickets to the luncheon, visit www.mmcenter.org and submit registration form to MMC at events@mmcenter.org.

For media inquiries pertaining to Taylor Armstrong's appearance, please contact Rae Pardini, Marjaree Mason Center's Director of Development and Communications, at rae@mmcenter.org or 559.487.1313 (office) or 559.351.9958 (cell).

About Marjaree Mason Center

For nearly 35 years, the Marjaree Mason Center has offered shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence in Fresno County. Currently, the Center operates the county's only dedicated provider of domestic violence shelter and support services, including education for victims and youth. The Center was founded in 1979 after the murder of Marjaree Mason, a native of Easton. A graduate of Washington High School and Reedley College, Marjaree lived in Fresno for 31 years and was well known in the community. The Marjaree Mason Center supports and empowers adults and children affected by domestic violence, while striving to prevent and end the cycle of abuse through education and advocacy. To contact MMC, call business center at 559-237-4706, 24-hour confidential emergency hotline at 559-233-HELP (4357) or visit online at mmcenter.org, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) or [Twitter](#).

About Taylor Armstrong

Taylor Armstrong starred in the hit Bravo reality show *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. She is a published author, with her memoir *Hiding from Reality: My Story of Love, Loss and Finding the Courage Within* becoming a New York Times bestseller. The mother of an eight-year old



daughter, Kennedy, Taylor continues to dedicate time to charity, and has flown around the country to give speeches to empower women. For more information on Taylor Armstrong, visit taylorarmstrong.com.

About CV Luxury

The mission of CV Luxury is to enrich, inspire and entertain our readers about the people, places and pleasures that the Valley and surrounding areas have to offer. We intend to set a standard of excellence for regional lifestyle publications consisting of quality content, speaking to both our readers and advertisers. When you invest in CV Luxury, you are choosing a lifestyle, a brand which represents superiority in print and marketing – a solid choice for your future, your business and your family. To read more about CV Luxury, [click here](#) to view website and online magazine.

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