



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Valerie's House Announces Inaugural Fall Fundraiser – Names Chairs** *Island-themed Event to Raise Money for Children's Grief Programs*

**FORT MYERS, Fla.** (August 5, 2016) Valerie's House, a not-for-profit organization devoted to providing grieving children and their families a caring place to share and experience support, announces its inaugural fall fundraiser on Thursday, October 13 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The island-themed event entitled, "*Under the Stars at Shangri-La,*" will be held at the historic Shangri-La Springs located at 27750 Old 41 Road, in Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

Joy Gugliuzza with Royal Shell Real Estate and Steve Engstrom with Sirius Computer Solutions have been named co-chairs for the event that supports Southwest Florida's grieving children and their families after loss.

Guests will experience the lush Shangri-La Springs property that encompasses the natural spring for which Bonita Springs was named. The historic hotel was built in the 1920s and was once a retreat for Hollywood stars of the Golden Age. The island-themed event will include live calypso music, flame throwers, island hors d'oeuvres, and signature cocktails.

Special art creations by Valerie's House children will be auctioned, in addition to other signature silent auction packages to help support Valerie's House.

Individual reserved tickets are available at \$100 each, with tables of eight for \$1,000. Major sponsorships range from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Sponsorships and reserved tickets can be purchased at [www.ValeriesHouseSWFL.org](http://www.ValeriesHouseSWFL.org) or by mail at Valerie's House, Inc., P.O. Box 1955, Fort Myers, FL 33902.

Valerie's House provides a safe, comfortable place for children to share, grieve and heal together following the death of a close family member. It currently serves more than 70 children and their families from Lee, Collier, Charlotte, and Hendry counties. Valerie's House is located at 1618 Avalon Place in the historic Dean Park community of downtown Fort Myers with future expansions in Naples and Cape Coral.

Valerie's House is named after Angela Melvin's mother, Valerie Melvin, a 31-year old nurse and mother of two daughters who was killed in a car accident in 1987. Valerie's House is fully supported through community donations. For more information or to register for programs, visit [www.valerieshouseswfl.org/contact-us/](http://www.valerieshouseswfl.org/contact-us/), call 239-478-6734, or write [angela@valerieshouseswfl.org](mailto:angela@valerieshouseswfl.org).