

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Spokane's Largest Plated Luncheon Cancelled**

Women Helping Women Fund's First Ever Virtual Event Featuring New York Times Best Selling Author

**Spokane, WA.** For the first time in 28 years, Women Helping Women Fund's Annual Luncheon, the largest plated luncheon in Spokane, has been cancelled. This decision was made in response to state mandates and current health advisors as a result of COVID-19. The luncheon raises an average of \$300,000 that supports the unique needs of underprivileged women and children in Spokane county through grantee programs. Past grantees include Spokane Valley Partners, YWCA, Women and Children's Free Restaurant, Transitions and Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, and without this event grantee programs will suffer, and in turn so will those who need the support the most. Additionally, the live event would have provided a unique opportunity for the Spokane community to learn about the current landscape of our women and children and hear from thought leaders who are making a change through their position. This year's speaker, Stephanie Land, Author of *Maid*, a New York Time's Best Seller and inspiration for the upcoming Netflix series of the same name.

In a proactive response to the cancellation, Women Helping Women Fund has announced the first ever *2020 Resiliency Campaign* as an effort to rally the Spokane community and support our women and children in a pivotal time. The campaign has a goal to raise \$300,000 – and with corporate sponsors like Providence Health Care, Numerica Credit Union and MultiCare, and individual donors, the organization has raised over \$96,000 already. Participate at <http://bit.ly/whwrc>.

Additionally, on May 19, 2020 at 12:00 PM PT, Women Helping Women Fund will host "A Conversation with MAID Author Stephanie Land", a virtual event that will allow audiences the thought-provoking content they would have received at the physical luncheon. Hosted by KXLY 4 News Now's Kris Crocker, the event will be available for free on Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/events/2626653007452997/>. Viewers will receive an update from the 2019 *State of Women and Children Report* followed by a fireside style chat with Stephanie. Stephanie will pull from life experience, discuss impactful moments from her memoir, as well as the new adaption of her work for the Netflix new release produced by John Wells and Margot Robbie.

Hamlin states "both the 2020 Resiliency Campaign and "A Conversation with MAID Author Stephanie Land", event provide an opportunity for the Spokane community to be educated on the topics our women and children are facing, make an impact to solving for these multifaceted problems, and band together in a moment where we must be apart".

For additional information, or to access the report please contact Heather Hamlin, Executive Director, WHWF at [heather@whwfspokane.com](mailto:heather@whwfspokane.com).