



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Audrey Doherty
Chemistry PR
(619) 236-8397

**Academy Award Winning Actor & Advocate Geena Davis to Headline
Center for Community Solutions' 50th Anniversary Gala**

*Landmark event to commemorate CCS' 50-year commitment to ending
intimate partner violence and sexual assault*

(SAN DIEGO, CA) – February XX, 2019 – Center for Community Solutions (CCS), the leading non-profit agency in San Diego that offers a complete range of sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence prevention and intervention services, announced that it will host the first of two events commemorating its 50th Anniversary on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 atop the USS Midway Museum.

Academy Award winning actor and women's rights advocate Geena Davis will serve as the celebrity keynote speaker at the event. Geena Davis is one of Hollywood's most respected actors, appearing in several films that became cultural landmarks such as *Thelma and Louise*, *A League of Their Own*, *Tootsie*, *Beetlejuice* and *Stuart Little*. She is not only an Oscar and Golden Globe-winning actor but is widely recognized for her tireless advocacy of women and girls. She is the Founder and Chair of the non-profit Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, was appointed Special Envoy for Women and Girls in ICT for the United Nation's International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and is an official partner of UN Women.

In addition to the celebrity keynote, CCS will offer a tribute to Vice President Joe Biden and the 25th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), landmark legislation that was authored and sponsored by then Senator Biden. For the past 25 years, VAWA has strengthened the nation's criminal justice and coordinated community-based response to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking crimes.

"Before recent headlines and hashtags helped bring international spotlight on the issues of sexual assault and domestic violence, CCS has been behind the scenes providing survivors with tools and resources to live and thrive," said Vern Griffin-Tabor, chief executive officer. "It is with

great pride that CCS unveils our plans to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. We invite all San Diegans to join us in supporting the ongoing effort to end the violence and start the healing.”

Marriott Daughters Foundation is the Platinum Sponsor for the 50th Anniversary.

Started in 1969 on the campus of San Diego State University as the first Women’s Studies Department in the U.S., CCS created an “underground railroad” of private homes helping women and children escape domestic violence. The organization has since expanded to provide a wide variety of prevention and intervention services to eliminate societal conditions that condone and perpetuate relationship and sexual violence, and to promote safety, justice, and healing for those impacted by these crimes. Services include a free and confidential 24-hour crisis counseling hotline, hospital accompaniment for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors during forensic examinations, three 24-hour emergency domestic violence shelters, victim advocacy, trauma-informed counseling services, legal assistance, and prevention education.

CCS’ 50th Anniversary year will be anchored by two fundraising events, the **50th Anniversary Gala** on June 5, 2019 at the USS Midway Museum, and its annual **Tea & Tonic** event which will be held in October (date and location, TBD).

Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased online at www.ccssd.org. For more information, contact Kimberly Jenks at 858-693-2369 or kjenks@ccssd.org.

About Center for Community Solutions

Celebrating 50 years in San Diego, Center for Community Solutions (CCS) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit corporation that provides prevention and intervention services for survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence. Founded in 1969, CCS has remained committed to solving the problems of relationship violence and abuse, improving the lives of survivors, and changing the social conditions that breed and tolerate their existence. CCS assisted more than 22,000 San Diegans last year and operates the only Rape Crisis Center in San Diego. For more information, visit www.ccssd.org.

###