



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### THE WOMEN'S IMAGE NETWORK ANNOUNCES FREE MOVIE SCREENING SERIES TO HONOR LOS ANGELES FIRE HEROES

**Los Angeles, CA – February 5, 2025** – Women's Image Network (WIN), a Los Angeles-based nonprofit, recognizes the challenges recent fires have created for the community. To help foster unity and healing, WIN, in partnership with Virginia Avenue Park and Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, is producing ten free movie nights open to the public.

Before each Saturday night screening, WIN will honor first responders and community members who demonstrated exceptional bravery during the recent Los Angeles fires. Titled "**HUG A HERO**", this series not only showcases great films but also celebrates those who embody generosity, courage, commitment, compassion, and creativity.

### "HUG A HERO" FREE MOVIE NIGHTS

This Saturday, February 8, marks the second "Hug A Hero" screening, featuring *Wicked*. Special guest **Cesily Collette Taylor**, who plays young Nessarose in *Wicked*, will be in attendance. Honorees include **Elizabeth Oreck** of Best Friends Animal Society and **Aaron Christensen** of Animal Advocacy Network.

The first screening, held on February 1, featured *Flow* and honored **Lisa Guerrero**, Santa Monica firefighters and first responders, **Dr. Kevin McEvilly, DVM** of Palms & Paws Veterinary Center, and **William McNamara** of Eastwood Ranch.

Women's Image Network is honored to collaborate with Virginia Avenue Park and Supervisor Lindsey Horvath to present these ten free screenings. The community is invited to attend "**HUG A HERO**" every Saturday night in February and March at 7 P.M. at the **Virginia Avenue Park Community Center in Santa Monica**.

### ABOUT SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Supervisor **Lindsey P. Horvath** was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on November 8, 2022, and assumed office on December 5, 2022. She is the youngest woman ever elected to the Board, the first millennial, and the only current renter serving on the Board, bringing a fresh perspective to LA County leadership. Prior to this, she served as a City Councilmember and the longest consecutively serving Mayor of West Hollywood.

Her career has been defined by tackling complex problems, building diverse coalitions, and delivering meaningful results for her community. A committed advocate for social justice, Supervisor Horvath has championed policies to support LGBTQ+ rights, women's empowerment, and transportation accessibility. She led the charge to make West Hollywood an "Age-Friendly Community," spearheaded financial sanctions against Arizona's discriminatory SB-1070 law, and created the first-ever West Hollywood Community Response Team to combat domestic violence.

A passionate advocate for public transportation and mobility, she has played a pivotal role in championing Metro rail projects in her district and founded the West Hollywood Bicycle Task Force, leading to the city's recognition as the most walkable city in California. Her dedication to inclusivity extends to her work with organizations like the Victory Fund, the NOH8 Campaign, and SAGE, where she has fought for LGBTQ+ equality and senior advocacy.

Supervisor Horvath holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Notre Dame and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management & Fundraising from UCLA Extension. She resides in West Hollywood with her dog, Winston.

## **ABOUT SPECIAL GUEST CESILY COLLETTE TAYLOR**

Cesily Collette Taylor—affectionately known as "CC"—has been defying expectations since birth. A bright and compassionate six-year-old, CC lights up every room with her infectious energy, creativity, and kindness. She made her film debut as Young Nessarose in *Wicked*, captivating audiences with her warmth and natural talent. Beyond the screen, CC is an artist, aspiring chef, animal lover, and passionate advocate for kids with Spina Bifida. Whether painting, baking, or championing accessibility, CC approaches life with curiosity and determination. Her joy is contagious, and her dreams are as big as her heart.

## **ABOUT BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY**

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading national organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in shelters and make the U.S. a no-kill nation by 2025. Founded in 1984, Best Friends has helped reduce the number of animals euthanized in shelters from 17 million per year to 415,000 in 2023. Through lifesaving programs, the nation's largest no-kill animal sanctuary, and a network of over 5,000 partners, Best Friends is committed to its mission: **Save Them All®**. Learn more at [bestfriends.org](https://bestfriends.org).

## **ABOUT AARON CHRISTENSEN & ANIMAL ADVOCACY NETWORK**

Aaron "AC" Christensen is the founder of **Animal Advocacy Network (AAN) & E.A.R.S. Emergency Animal Rescue Services**. With extensive experience in disaster relief since Hurricane Katrina, AC dedicated himself full-time to rescue efforts during the 2018 Woolsey fires. He holds advanced lifesaving certifications, including Swift Water and Cadaver Search & Recovery. Though his focus is on large animal rescue, AC also assists with domestic pet evacuations. His unwavering commitment to animal rescue has made him a trusted figure in California's disaster response efforts.

## **ABOUT WOMEN'S IMAGE NETWORK**

Founded in 1993 by filmmaker and actress **Phyllis Stuart**, Women's Image Network creates, applauds, and shares powerful stories that build inclusive and tolerant communities. For more information, visit [www.thewinawards.com](http://www.thewinawards.com).

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