



**EXTRAORDINARYFAMILIES TO HONOR
SHANE BRENNAN, STACIE & PHILIP D'AMOUR AND
JASON PEERS & ERIC PELOVELLO
AT FIRST ANNUAL AWARDS GALA ON APRIL 20**

LOS ANGELES, CA (April xx, 2016) – ExtraordinaryFamilies, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of children in child welfare, hosts its first annual Awards Gala on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills. The evening will honor Shane Brennan, creator and executive producer, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, with the 2016 Visionary Award. Stacie & Philip D'Amour and Jason Peers & Eric Pelovello will be presented with the 2016 Sylvia Fogelman Founder's Award. Actress Renee Ridgeley and comedienne Sheila Chalakee, hosts. Singer/songwriter Judith Hill will perform and actor Chris O'Donnell will present. Brooke Kaufman Halsband, chairs.

"Our organization is so fortunate to have such 'extraordinary' and dedicated supporters who have demonstrated a long-standing commitment as role models for children and families in child welfare," said Sarah Boone, Chief Executive Officer of ExtraordinaryFamilies. "Their vision, generosity and devotion enable us to provide transformative programs and policies that produce measurable improvements in the lives of children and families in the foster care and adoption community."

Shane Brennan is the creator and executive producer of the hit CBS series, *NCIS: Los Angeles*. He developed a character in the series, G. Callen, portrayed by Chris O'Donnell, who spent his youth growing up in the foster care system. The character sheds light on the issue of child welfare and illustrates the resilience of character. Brennan's other television credits include *King & Maxwell*, *CSI: Miami*, *One Tree Hill* and *Summerland*. Prior to arriving in Los Angeles, Brennan worked on a number of Australian television series. He is recipient of numerous national and international awards, including two Australian Writers Guild Awards, an Australian Film Institute Award and a Chicago Film Festival Award. In 2009, Brennan was awarded the Television Showman of the Year award by the International Cinematographers Guild. Born in Australia, Brennan currently resides in Los Angeles and Australia with his wife Cathryn and their three children.

Stacie and Philip D'Amour first attended an orientation for prospective foster-adoptive parents in January, 2012. They went through the training process and were approved as foster parents in August, 2012. Philip works in the entertainment industry, and Stacie volunteers each week with EF and is a stay at home mom to the couple's one-year old daughter whom they adopted through the organization. Stacie and Philip provide support to families just getting started on their foster care and adoption journeys by supporting the development of resources for current and prospective families, and sharing their own story to prospective families during the new family orientation meetings and training. Through the family's generosity with their time and by sharing their story, new families receive increased support from those who has gone through the amazingly rewarding journey.

Jason Peers and Eric Pelovello became an Extraordinary Family in 2013. They live in Los Angeles with their two sons, Justin and Kamil. While many families wish to adopt newborns, Erik and Jason opened their home and their hearts to two boys whom it would be difficult to find a family due to their age and circumstances. Both boys were in foster care living with individuals who were unable to adopt them and had moved several times while in the foster care system. Eric and Jason not only provided two boys with a forever family, they continue

to contribute to EF and the foster care and adoption community. They offer encouragement to those just beginning their foster adoption journey and are often invited to speak at prospective parent orientation meetings. Jason furthers his dedication to encouraging others, especially members of the LGBT community, with his eBook entitled “From Foster-Adopt to Forever Family – A Gay Couple’s Journey to Fatherhood,” which chronicles their journey, from their decision to grow their family through adoption.

ABOUT EXTRAORDINARYFAMILIES:

ExtraordinaryFamilies was formed in 2015 with the merger of two robust nonprofits: Southern California Foster Family and Adoption Agency (SCFFAA) and Child Welfare Initiative (CWI). Both organizations were well-established, innovative nonprofits in Southern California that shared the vision of improving the daily lives and long-term outcomes of children impacted by the child welfare system. The merger of the two organizations resulted in gained synergies, improved efficiencies, reduced costs, complementary services and in-field learning that significantly leveraged resources and greatly increased the organization’s impact on the community. For more information, please visit www.ExtraordinaryFamilies.org.

For event information and sponsorship packages, please contact Lyndsey at Grant Associates at 323-904-4400.

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