



Press Release

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Mary's Center Announces Co-Chairs and EmCee of its 2017 Annual Gala, *Noche Tropical*

Washington, DC - [Mary's Center](#) has recently announced Ashley Kollme and Doug Kollme as Co-Chairs and NBC4's Susan Hogan as Master of Ceremonies of its annual gala, *Noche Tropical*, to be held on October 6, 2017 at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Ashley Kollme, an education consultant, and Doug Kollme, Chief Financial Officer at the software development and information technology company [InfoZen](#), are known for their deep commitment to the community. Mrs. Kollme, who is a former Development Director at Mary's Center, was instrumental in developing the Latino Student Fund's first college preparation program, LISTO, and currently serves on the boards of the Girls Gotta Run Foundation and the [Team Drea Foundation](#). Mr. Kollme has also been a donor and mentor for the Latino Student Fund's LISTO program and serves as Treasurer of the Team Drea Foundation.

Susan Hogan, an Emmy Award-winning journalist and [NBC4](#) consumer reporter, has dedicated most of her career to investigating consumer complaints and helping the public recover millions of dollars.

"We are privileged to have such amazing and committed Co-Chairs and Master of Ceremonies at our Noche Tropical gala this year," says Maria Gomez, Mary's Center President and CEO. "They have a deep understanding of the community we serve and the needs to be met in terms of healthcare, education and social services, and with their leadership, I'm confident that we will have a very successful gala."

As gala Co-Chairs, the Kollmes will help increase the event's visibility and encourage participation in Mary's Center's biggest fundraiser of the year. With the assistance of the gala's Steering Committee, they are committed to spearheading Mary's Center's effort to raise \$600,000 to continue to support individuals and families with vital services and programs that will help them overcome life challenges and move up the economic ladder.

“We’ve been always impressed by Mary’s Center’s impact in the community and the work its staff does to help families thrive and succeed,” says Ashley Kollme. “We look forward to making this event memorable and raising a substantial amount of money for the benefit of those in need.”

With the theme *Noche Tropical: Un Carnaval*, the gala will allow Mary’s Center’s guests to enjoy a truly festive evening to celebrate the Center’s achievements during the past year, including the opening of an in-house pharmacy at its location in Petworth and a dedicated behavioral health center at its Adams Morgan location in Washington, DC, as well as the purchase of a new building in Silver Spring, Maryland to provide much-needed services to low income families in Montgomery County.

The event is expected to gather over 500 guests who will enjoy a cocktail reception, seated dinner, live and silent auctions, dancing, a casino and a Scotch and Cigars bar.

To purchase tickets or make a donation to support the event, please visit www.maryscenter.org/gala. For information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Angeline Jefferson at 202-420-7049 or ajefferson@maryscenter.org. Follow *Noche Tropical* on social media using #MCGala.

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[About Mary’s Center](#)

Founded in 1988, Mary’s Center is a Community Health Center that provides a model of care including healthcare, educational and social services to more than 40,000 individuals from over 100 countries through eight centers in Washington, DC and Maryland. Using a holistic, multipronged approach, Mary’s Center helps each participant access individualized services and find the path towards wellness, stable families, educational success and economic opportunities. For more information please visit www.maryscenter.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).