



## MEDIA CONTACT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Ashley Addiction Treatment holds 15th annual luncheon to honor co-founder Mae Ashley Abraham**

Proceeds go towards lifesaving scholarship for women in need of treatment

HAVRE DE GRACE, MD – [Ashley Addiction Treatment \(Ashley\)](#), one of the world’s most recognized and respected names in the substance use disorder treatment industry, will hold its first event on campus since the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 24, 2022, the 15th Annual Mae Abraham Legacy Luncheon will take place to honor co-founder, Mae Ashley Abraham. Through her dedication, patience, tenacity and partnership with Father Martin, Ashley Addiction Treatment opened its doors in 1983 and has helped more than 50,000 patients with its life-changing programs.

The 15th annual luncheon is the first to honor the pioneer since her passing in 2019. Ms. Abraham’s own long-term sobriety began when she first heard Father Martin describe alcoholism as a disease—and not a moral failing—a revolutionary message at the time, and one she deeply needed to hear. “Father Martin removed the stigma and shame from me about my alcoholism,” said Mae in a 2008 interview with the Baltimore Sun. “And I vowed that never again would I allow anyone or even myself to make me feel ashamed of what happened to me.” In dedication to women who need to hear this message, just like Mae did, all proceeds will go towards a scholarship to help women in need of substance use disorder services at Ashley.

Vice President of Engagement, Tara Handron, *“We are so excited to welcome friends and alumni back to our campus for this special event. Mae was the epitome of a strong woman in recovery; this is just as important today as it was in 1983. Women are more likely to hide symptoms of SUD, and by celebrating Mae and her courage, we want all women to know it is OK to ask for help. To ensure that the cost of treatment isn’t a deterrent, with this event, we are raising money for women who need treatment at Ashley but can’t afford it. Women run all parts of society – business, families, schools, medical facilities, government and more. Let’s make sure they get the care they need!”*

In 2020, during the pandemic, more than 99,000 people suffered alcohol-related deaths— a 25.5 percent spike over the previous year. More adults under 65 died from alcohol-related



factors than from COVID-19 in that same year, with women being the fastest growing group misusing alcohol.

To purchase tickets for the event and support women's treatment, visit [www.ashleytreatment.org/luncheon](http://www.ashleytreatment.org/luncheon).

#### **ABOUT ASHLEY ADDICTION TREATMENT**

For more than 38 years, Ashley Addiction Treatment has helped people find freedom from substance use disorder with an empathetic approach to recovery based on its co-founders' philosophies. Within two years of opening, Forbes Magazine ranked Ashley as one of the country's top 10 facilities. Now known as Ashley Addiction Treatment, a nonprofit, accredited substance use disorder treatment center with five locations in Maryland, Mae Abraham and Father Martin's legacy has helped more than 50,000 patients and 100,000 family members heal their minds, bodies and spirits. The driving principle — everything for recovery — reinforces Ashley's timeless mission to treat each person with dignity and respect because everyone deserves a chance to live a happy and healthy life.

#### **ABOUT MAE ABRAHAM**

As one of Ashley's co-founders, many regard Mae Ashley Abraham as the first lady of Ashley Addiction Treatment and a visionary in the treatment field. Now known as Ashley Addiction Treatment, the treatment center Mae and Father Martin founded has helped to change more than 50,000 lives. Mae remained very involved with Ashley throughout her life, giving talks and serving as the personification of sobriety. Despite her death on August 23, 2019, at the age of 92, Mae continues to be a beacon of hope and healing. Her warmth lives within Ashley and in the hearts of all Ashley staff.