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AZ Giving: Vino con Stelle

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Stacie J. Stephenson, DC, is known for many things, including being a recognized physician and lecturer on regenerative, functional and natural medicine; a champion of holistic, patient-centered care; and a philanthropic force behind a wide range of charitable causes. Having spent 15 years in private practice, Dr. Stephenson serves as the chair of functional medicine for Cancer Treatment Centers of America. She also is vice chair of the board of directors for Gateway for Cancer Research, a nonprofit organization that for nearly three decades has been funding early-phase clinical cancer trials at some of the world's most renowned institutions. It is her commitment to improving quality of life for cancer patients that guides Dr. Stephenson's leadership of one of Scottsdale's newest and most meaningful fundraising events: *Vino con Stelle*.

Now in its fourth year, *Vino con Stelle* is Gateway for Cancer Research's second signature fundraising affair. For more than two decades, the organization has hosted the annual Cures Gala near its headquarters in Chicago. Recognizing Arizona's philanthropic spirit and expanding commitment to cancer care and research, Dr. Stephenson and her husband, Richard J Stephenson, founder of Gateway and Cancer Treatment Centers of America, hosted the inaugural *Vino con Stelle* in Scottsdale in 2017.

Dr. Stephenson's vision proved to be a welcome departure from the Valley's typical fundraising scene. Blending a love of exquisite wines with unparalleled live entertainment, amazing auction experiences and an enviable setting, *Vino con Stelle* is as stylish and captivating as the woman behind it. But more than just an evening of glamour and giving, it's an opportunity for those who recognize the value of investing in cancer research to be the gateway to ending cancer as we know it.

The landscape of cancer care in Arizona continues to evolve with powerhouses like Mayo Clinic, Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, TGen, Phoenix Children's Hospital and others stepping up their presence. Through *Vino con Stelle*, Dr. Stephenson is helping the philanthropic community seize the opportunity to bring some of the most novel ideas in cancer research to fruition. A testament to her ability to spur support for a cause that impacts so many, proceeds from *Vino con Stelle* have more than doubled year over year.

Join Dr. Stephenson, Mr. Stephenson and philanthropists from all walks of life at the fourth-annual *Vino con Stelle* on Friday, April 17 at Scottsdale Hanger One in Scottsdale. Your support will give hope to those facing cancer.

PHOTO CREDIT: Bob and Dawn Davis Photography and Design