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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Here for the Girls Welcomes New Board Members

WILLIAMSBURG, VA, April 11, 2019 – Here for the Girls recently welcomed three new members to its Board of Directors: Dr. Kandace McGuire, Ashley Smith, and Linda McKee.

Here for the Girls (hereforthegirls.org) is a Williamsburg-based nonprofit with the mission of improving the lives of young women affected by breast cancer.

“I am thrilled and grateful that Dr. McGuire, Ashley Smith, and Linda McKee have joined our Board of Directors,” says Here for the Girls Executive Director Mary Beth Gibson. “They each bring different experiences and expertise to the Board that will benefit Here for the Girls greatly as we continue to spread our loving support to more young women with breast cancer.”

Kandace P. McGuire, M.D., serves as the chief of breast surgery and surgical leader of the Breast Health Program at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Massey Cancer Center. She joined VCU in September 2017 and also serves as an associate professor of surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology at the VCU School of Medicine.

Dr. McGuire chose her career path after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 53. “I treat young women with breast cancer; I joined the Here for the Girls Board to care for them as well. I wish there had been a group like this for my mother when she was diagnosed. She would be proud that I am working with such a fantastic group of people.”

Ashley Smith is a News Anchor/Reporter at 13News Now and is the host of “Coastal Connections,” 13News Now’s community outreach show. She is President of Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals, Inc. (an affiliate chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists). Smith has participated in pageants for seven years; most notably, she was named Miss United States 2011. She has served as emcee for the Here for the Girls Pink Carpet Gala for the past two years.

Smith's mother was first diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 45. She received a second diagnosis in 2015, and a third in 2017. She is currently receiving treatment for her fourth diagnosis. "Here for the Girls has shown me how important support is for young women with breast cancer – my mother would have really fit into Here for the Girls well when she was first diagnosed. That's why this organization has a special place in my heart." Smith has been connected to the organization in various ways for the many years and says that becoming a Board member "is a natural next step."

Linda McKee is a former long-time Here for the Girls Board member who is returning; she previously served as Treasurer. McKee works at Riverside as the Service Line Administrator for Oncology at Riverside Health System and will replace Board member Faye Gargiulo, who will resign from her duties this year.

McKee is looking forward to returning to the Board. "This organization not only helps young breast cancer survivors celebrate life with an exclamation point, but it advances the human spirit, reminding these young women that they do have power, value, and are loved," McKee says. "What a wonderful opportunity to be a part of something so important!" She is interested in learning from survivors what it's like to be faced with breast cancer and better understanding their needs in order to "approach change from a point of better understanding and empathy."

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*Here for the Girls, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) improving the lives of young women affected by breast cancer. We do this through in-person support groups (a support service we call Beyond Boobs!) across Virginia and in select locations in North Carolina, Florida, and Texas; we also support young survivors across the country through our private, online support community (a support service called Pink Link).
For more information, visit us at hereforthegirls.org*