



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Here for the Girls Welcomes Two New Board Members

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., March 18, 2020 - Here for the Girls is thrilled to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors: Teresa Simms and Joyce Ortiz.

Teresa and Joyce will join the board as active H4TG members, filling seats designated for young survivors who are members of the organization. "I am so grateful and pleased that Teresa and Joyce have joined our Board of Directors," says Here for the Girls Executive Director Chris Schwab. "It is critical that the Board have input from its members as it works on strategically leading this organization into the future.

"These women 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." 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.

Teresa was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009, which was when she joined the organization as a member. She appeared as Ms. April in *A Calendar to Live By 2011* and has played an active role in the organization since she first joined. Her goal as a board member is to "assist this amazing organization in its mission to give all young women diagnosed with breast cancer access to peers who understand and care about what she is going through," she says.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Teresa attended high school in Hampton, Virginia. She is one of four sisters and calls her mother, Rosa, her "earthly angel." A graduate of George Mason University, she recently retired with over 26 years of law enforcement experience as a Newport News police officer and as a U.S. Probation Officer, and is enjoying her time with her husband, Phillip, whom she says is a precious gift from heaven.

Teresa is much inspired by Dr. Maya Angelou's quote, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

In 2018, Joyce was diagnosed with stage 1, triple positive breast cancer. She has successfully completed treatment and now looks forward to further engaging with and giving back to the community that supported her on her cancer journey. She is Ms. March in *A Calendar to Live By 2020*.

Joyce grew up traveling around the world as part of an Air Force family. She considers Virginia home and is a graduate of Christopher Newport University. She has spent much of her career working in a variety of roles in several GE businesses in the financial services arena. About five years ago, she joined NASA's Langley Research Center where she manages internal communications, employee engagement, and strategic messaging. In her free time, she enjoys playing golf with her husband, Joe, and son, Jacob.



Pictured left to right: Teresa Simms and Joyce Ortiz, both new board members at Here for the Girls.

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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 by offering in-person support groups led by trained facilitators, various no-cost activities and events throughout the year, and robust virtual support.

For more information, visit us at www.hereforthegirls.org