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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Serve & Connect to host 2023 Illuminight Gala on March 3

(Columbia, SC) Serve & Connect will host its annual fundraiser, the Illuminight Gala, on March 3 at Central Energy in Columbia. Illuminight Gala is the nonprofit's signature fundraising event set to celebrate the organization's mission, including the presentation of the Greg Alia Award and the Changemaker Award. This year's event is presented by The City of Forest Acres.

The Illuminight Gala will feature special guest and keynote speaker David O. Brown Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. Superintendent Brown holds more than 30 years of law enforcement experience to Chicago and is nationally recognized for his expertise in public safety, community policing, and reform.

Since joining CPD, Brown has prioritized community engagement and building trust in Chicago's communities. As part of this effort, the Department launched multiple initiatives focused on making the city's neighborhoods safer through community partnership. Prior to being named Superintendent in Chicago, Brown previously served as the Chief of the Dallas Police Department from 2010-2016. He is also the author of a memoir: Call to Rise.

"We believe in the power of people to drive change. We believe that communities can accomplish great things, especially when we work together," shares Kassy Alia Ray, Serve & Connect Founder and CEO. "Superintendent Brown brings immense leadership and a commitment to rebuilding community trust through partnerships. To have his immense leadership combined with a story of resilience and hope – all issues that are at the heart of Serve & Connect, we are incredibly honored bring his powerful message to our community."

Guests at the Illuminight Gala will also enjoy live entertainment from DJ Voodoo Child catering by Loosh Culinare, open bar and wine donated by Josh Wines, and more.



About Serve & Connect

Serve & Connect is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that aims to ignite positive change through police-community partnerships. Kassy Alia Ray founded the organization in memory of her late husband, Officer Gregory Alia, who was killed in the line of duty in 2015. Backed by evidence-based practices designed to fuel collaboration, Serve & Connect provides the tools, training and technical assistance necessary for police departments, local organizations, leaders and residents to work together to improve community outcomes.

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