FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Community Raises $180,000 to Fund New Path for Success for**

**North Texans in Need**

*At Empower Gala, supporters of Metrocrest Services create new Pathways Fund, empowering staff of non-profit to say “YES!” to helping people on their path to self-sufficiency.*

ADDISON, Texas – It was a resounding “Yes!” from guests, members of the community who came together for the Empower Gala benefiting Metrocrest Services, as Metrocrest Services CEO **Tracy Eubanks** asked the room of supporters if it was their goal to help people on the path to self-sufficiency, and if they wanted to make meaningful change in the world. The hundreds who gathered were unanimous in their exuberant answer to his questions, shouting “Yes!” from each corner of the ballroom in the Renaissance Dallas Addison Hotel in Addison on November 16.

“The Pathways Fund will be the pathway to independence for many of our clients. We want to say ‘Yes!’ for people in need, when and how they need us. This this is how we put the power in ‘empower,’” Eubanks told the crowd as he described the Pathways Fund, launched at the gala to fund additional ways for Metrocrest Services staff to assist their clients, families and seniors in need who find help and hope through the non-profit agency.

Eubanks described the Metrocrest Services Pathways Fund as a way to meet those often smaller expenses that exist at a crucial point in the journey toward a person’s independence. For some clients, it means funding to pay a cell phone or internet bill so that person can apply for jobs. For others, it can mean money to buy the specific work boots that are required on the site where the person’s new job exists, or a licensing exam for a soon-to-be teacher. “Other times, it’s a much-needed auto part or repair that allows that person to get back to their job that puts food on their family’s table,” Eubanks said. “Through the Pathways Fund, we will have the ability to address those seemingly small things, those barriers, on the path to independence and self-sufficiency for a family in need, so that they can be unstoppable.”

Attendees pledged funding and support to start the Pathways Fund with almost $180,000 in funding Metrocrest Services staff will use to empower clients on their paths to self-sufficiency.

Three committed local families served as honorary co-chairs for the Empower Gala: **Joe and Natalie Mendez**, **Marcus and Holly Sechrest**, and **Mike and Linda Rutherford** – all committed volunteers of Metrocrest Services who have each served the mission in a variety of roles. Attendees heard impassioned remarks from Linda Rutherford and Joe Mendez, as well as **Shellie Rayford**, chair of the Metrocrest Services Board of Directors, and **Aaron Augustine** with Allstate, who served as presenting sponsor for the event. Thrive & Shine sponsors for the Empower Gala were Citi, Southwest Airlines, Verity Instruments, Rick and Beverly Fetterman, and Legacy Consulting Group.

Guests from across the Metroplex enjoyed an unforgettable event filled with live music, fantastic food, fun – and the opportunity to make a difference for the clients of Metrocrest Services. Composer and multi-instrumentalist **Zuriel Merek** captivated guests with his electric violin and live looping performances. Guests posed for photos on the red carpet and participated in a 360-degree photo video booth, and danced to live entertainment from Emerald City’s The Party Machine.

Founded in 1971, **Metrocrest Services, Inc.**, is dedicated to helping individuals, families and seniors navigate crisis situations and guide them on a path to self-sufficiency. To accomplish this, Metrocrest Services offers a wide range of services, starting with those that meet basic needs, including access to nutritious food, resources for homelessness, and short-term financial assistance. Other Metrocrest Services programs focus on helping clients build long-term economic stability through financial education workshops and employment coaching. In addition, Metrocrest Services is committed to enhancing well-being through nutrition education and healthcare guidance, and by providing specialized services to help seniors age in place with dignity and comfort. Seasonal Metrocrest Services programs include holiday gifting for families in need and for seniors to help them share in the joy of the season, and programs that address families’ additional food access needs during summer break from school. From its headquarters at 1145 N. Josey Lane in Carrollton, the award-winning non-profit agency services clients in the Metrocrest areas of Carrollton, Addison, Farmers Branch, Coppell, and residents of Dallas who live in Denton County (75287). Metrocrest Services, Inc. is dedicated to empowering individuals and families to overcome challenges and build a better future. For more information about our programs and how you can support our mission, please visit metrocrestservices.org or call 972.446.2100.

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Media Contact:

Suzanne Gentry Flodin

The Gentry Agency

214-500-4289

suzanne@gentry.agency