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WE ARE FAMILY FOUNDATION® TO HONOR DOLLY PARTON AND JEAN PAUL GAULTIER AT 2019 CELEBRATION

New York, NY (September 9, 2019) – We Are Family Foundation® (WAFF) will honor legendary artist Dolly Parton and iconic fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier at its 2019 Celebration on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City.

WAFF, a not-for-profit organization founded by legendary multiple GRAMMY® Award winning musician Nile Rodgers, is dedicated to the vision of a global family. WAFF creates and supports programs that promote cultural diversity while nurturing the vision, talents and ideas of young people who are positively changing the world.

“We’ve wanted to recognize and honor the extraordinary accomplishments of Dolly Parton for many years. Her exemplary work as an artist, businesswoman and philanthropist is an example for us all. She symbolizes everything that is great about music and America. Jean Paul Gaultier is someone who I’m happy to call a friend. His incomparable work as an iconic fashion designer and forward thinker has changed our culture in a way the world has greatly benefitted from. We are enormously grateful to our honorees for their exceptional work to improve humanity and we warmly welcome them into our WAFF family”, said Rodgers.

Dolly Parton, legendary singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, actress, author, businesswoman and humanitarian will receive the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Peacemaker Award. Over the years, Parton has supported many charitable efforts, particularly in the area of literacy, primarily through the Dollywood Foundation. Her literacy program, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, a part of the Dollywood Foundation, mails one book per month to each enrolled child from the time of their birth until they enter kindergarten. In August 2019, the Imagination Library gave away over 1.4M books, and has given away a total of over 125M books to date. In 2018, Parton was honored by the Library of Congress on account of the "charity sending out its 100 millionth book".

With a record for any female artist of 26 songs reaching No. 1 on the Billboard country charts; 42 career top-10 country albums, a record for any artist; and 110 career-charted singles over the past 40 years, Parton remains one of the most-honored female country performers of all time.

"To say that I am honored would be quite an understatement. I am so humbled to be included in with such an amazing group of people. I have often said that I don’t count my awards, but this is one I will not soon forget. The Mattie J.T. Stepanek Peacemaker Award from the We Are Family Foundation represents so many of the characteristics that I strive every day to live by. I believe in family, I believe in love, and I believe that together we can change the world”, said Parton.
Previous honorees of the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Peacemaker Award include: President Jimmy Carter, Desmond Tutu, Roger Daltrey CBE, Paul Simon, Dr. Maya Angelou and Quincy Jones.

Jean Paul Gaultier will receive the Humanitarian Award. Gaultier, a French couturier started an apprenticeship at eighteen in the fashion house of Parisian designer Pierre Cardin and by 1976, founded his own eponymous fashion label. Gaultier started his ascent in the fashion world in the early eighties adding a men’s collection in 1984, and two years later opening his first boutique in Paris. In 1997 with his showing of his first haute couture collection, Gaultier secured his place in the fashion industry.

With Gaultier’s desire to illuminate and support human individuality and beauty, he used unconventional models for his shows. This earned him both criticism and enormous popularity. In acknowledgement of his role in reshaping popular perceptions of humanity through fashion and in redirecting the creative process, Gaultier was awarded in 2001 the title of Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur (“Knight of the Legion of Honor”), one of France’s highest honors, amongst many other awards and accolades he has received.

“It is with great honor that I receive the 2019 Humanitarian Award. I have always believed that all people are beautiful, no matter what their color, shape, size, creed, or sexuality. It is the inner beauty of all people and what we do for others that contributes the most to our beautiful global family”, said Jean Paul Gaultier.

Previous honorees of the Humanitarian Award include: Bono, Sting & Trudie Styler, Steven Van Zandt, Nile Rodgers, Jackson Browne, Peter Gabriel and Sir Elton John.

Nile Rodgers & CHIC and Dolly Parton will perform live at the event.

To purchase tickets or to contribute to We Are Family Foundation, please visit wearefamilyfoundation.org. Contributions are fully tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

About We Are Family Foundation
We Are Family Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded by legendary musician Nile Rodgers and is dedicated to the vision of a global family by supporting and creating programs that promote cultural diversity while nurturing and mentoring the vision, talents and ideas of young people globally who are positively changing the world. For more information visit wearefamilyfoundation.org

About Dolly Parton
Dolly Parton is the most honored female country performer of all time. Achieving 25 RIAA certified Gold, Platinum, and multi-Platinum awards, she has had 26 songs reach No. 1 on the Billboard country charts, a record for a female artist. Parton recently became the first Country artist honored as Grammy MusiCares Person of the Year given out by NARAS. She has 41 career Top 10 country albums, a record for any artist, and she has 110 career-charted singles
over the past 40 years. In 2014 the RIAA recognized her impact on recorded music with a plaque commemorating more than 100 million units sold worldwide – and in 2016 her No. 1 album Pure & Simple, which topped the Billboard Top Country Albums and Americana/Folk Albums charts and debuted at No. 1 in the U.S., Canada, U.K. and Australia, added to that massive tally. She has garnered eight Grammy Awards, including a 2017 win with Pentatonix for their collaboration on her iconic 1974 hit “Jolene”; 10 Country Music Association Awards, including Entertainer of the Year; five Academy of Country Music Awards, also including a nod for Entertainer of the Year; four People’s Choice Awards; and three American Music Awards. In 1999, Parton was inducted as a member of the coveted Country Music Hall of Fame.

In 2008 Parton launched her return to touring on a global scale with Backwoods Barbie World Tour, the first of many sold-out arena tours, returning her to Billboard Boxscore’s Top 10 Country Tours of the Year. Her 2016 movie “Christmas Of Many Colors: Circle Of Love,” was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Television Movie. In 2017, Parton released her first children’s album, I Believe In You, on Dolly Records through her partnership with Sony Music Nashville; the project’s proceeds benefit The Dollywood Foundation’s Imagination Library, a non-profit that since 1996 has provided more than 100 million books to children from birth to five years of age in the United States, Canada, Australia and the UK. In 2018, Parton received her first two Emmy Awards as the organization recognized her lifetime of giving with the Governor’s Award and the award for Best Community Service Program lauding her 2016 telethon “Smoky Mountains Rise,” which raised more than $13 million for her My People fund, which provided financial assistance to victims of massive wildfires in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Parton recently collaborated with producer Linda Perry on the soundtrack for the Golden Globe nominated film Dumplin’ starring Jennifer Aniston and Danielle MacDonald with Parton as the executive producer. In addition, Netflix will be releasing an eight-part anthology film series called Heartstrings thru her Sandollar Productions in association with Sam Haskell's Magnolia Hill Productions, with each individual film based on one of Dolly’s masterful songs. This will be streamed in the fall 2019. Next year will also mark the 33rd anniversary season for Dollywood, her theme park in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., which since 1986 has hosted more than 2 million visitors annually.

About Jean Paul Gaultier

Jean Paul Gaultier was born in 1952 in a Paris suburb and has started his career with Pierre Cardin in 1970, on the day of his 18th birthday. After working at Esterel, Patou and again at Cardin, Gaultier decided to start his own fashion house and staged his first show in Paris in 1976. Critical and commercial success followed quickly and by the early eighties he was one of the most talked about young designers. From the beginning of his career, Jean Paul Gaultier wanted to show that beauty has many facets and that we can find it where we least expect it like in a lowly tin can which first became a bracelet and later the packaging for his hugely successful perfume. His menswear was launched in 1984 with the “Male Object” collection and in 1997 Gaultier has realized his dream of starting an haute couture collection “Gaultier Paris”. He was also the designer for Hermes womenswear from 2004 to 2011. In 2015 Mr. Gaultier decided to stop his ready to wear and continue with the haute couture. Throughout his career Gaultier has worked in dance, music and the cinema. His costumes for Madonna’s Blond Ambition tour have left an indelible imprint on the popular culture. His first collaboration in the cinema was with
Peter Greenaway for “The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover” in 1989. He also designed costumes for “The City of Lost Children” by Caro and Jeunet, “Fifth Element” by Luc Besson and has worked three times with Pedro Almodovar on “Kika”, “Bad Education” and “The Skin I live In”. In 2018 he presented the Fashion Freak Show at the Folies Bergere in Paris, a revue that tells the story of his life and the fifty years of popular culture through song and dance and fashion. After a triumphant nine month run in Paris the show will now commence its international tour.

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