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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blues & Soul Artist Janiva Magness To Headline Benefit for the Child Welfare League of America at the Bethesda (Md.) Blues & Jazz Supper Club

Tickets and Sponsorships To Go on Sale February 5, 2014

Washington, DC – The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) will host a benefit on Saturday, May 17, starring foster care alumni and international blues artist Janiva Magness. The event will take place during National Foster Care Month at the Bethesda (Md.) Blues & Jazz Supper Club, a beautifully restored former Art Deco theater. Proceeds will support the nation’s oldest and largest membership-based child welfare organization and the Foster Care Alumni of America (FCAA), for whom Ms. Magness is an Ambassador.

On any given day there are roughly 397,122* children in foster care, including about 28% who are living with kin. The good news? There are far fewer kids in foster care now than in 2008 (463,792).*

“I’ve been told that anyone who doesn’t believe in miracles is not a realist,” says Ms. Magness. “Well, you are looking at and listening to one, in part because someone was brave enough to stand up for me when I was much younger, and a foster child at risk.”

“I’ll be singing the blues and more [on Saturday, May 17] so kids and families don’t have to,” says the music sensation.

Says CWLA president & CEO Christine James-Brown, “Ms. Magness is a beautiful and courageous example of how children and youth can overcome tremendous obstacles with the help of a loving caregiver. We are grateful for her support.”

The Alligator recording artist will preview several new songs, due out in June. Among them: *All I Want*, a song she co-wrote with her Grammy-nominated producer Dave Darling, for CWLA. The refrain is both personal and poignant:

*“And all I want is to be somewhere, In my dream – I find comfort there
One hand to hold and a heart that cares, Yeah I know that I’ll find somewhere...”*

Ms. Magness is an internationally recognized premier contemporary blues and soul artist of the highest order. Her recordings continuously reach the top ten radio and sales charts around the world, as well as garnering her top artist honors from the US to the UK and Norway as the front-runner in her genre.

In 2009 The Blues Foundation named Ms. Magness *B.B. King Entertainer of the Year*. She is a four-time recipient of the Blues Music Award's *Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year* (2006, 2007, 2009, 2013). She recently received BMA's coveted *Best Song of the Year* (2013) for *I Won't Cry*, from her 2012 release, *Stronger for It*.

Despite her success, the recording artist's rise to the top wasn't easy. Born in Detroit, Janiva was inspired by the blues and country she heard listening to her father's records. By her teenage years, though, her life was in chaos. She had been molested, lost both parents to suicide and was living on the streets, pregnant with a child she would later give up for adoption. Finally, she was embraced by a single mother of five. "Carrie showed me kindness and compassion. She had the capacity to say 'no' when I needed it the most. Music inspired me to go on, but Carrie set boundaries that truly saved my life."

Even as her star is rising, Janiva's desire to give back grows as well. "I have a life today I could never have imagined," she says. "You know your fate does not have to be your destiny. Fate is what you are handed. Destiny is about what you could be. I'm living proof. The tragedies of my life no longer define me."

"It's so powerful for current foster youth and alumni to hear from a fellow alumni who has found success and happiness in the face of such adversity," says Foster Care Alumni of America CEO, Adam Robe. "She's an inspiration to us all."

Tickets and sponsorships will go on sale to the public on February 5 at bethesdabluesjazz.com or by calling 202/688-4157. **To schedule an interview, or for more information, contact Linda Spears at lspears@cwla.org, 202-688-4189.**

* U.S. DHHS, ACF, ACYF, Children's Bureau, AFCARS Preliminary Estimates for FY 2012 as of November 2013 (20)

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) was formed in 1920. It is the nation's pre-eminent organization dedicated to ensuring that abused and neglected children are protected from harm and have the tools and resources they need to grow into the healthy and happy adults we want them to become. CWLA is the trusted authority for professionals who work with children and the only national organization with members from both public and private agencies, providing unique access and influence to all sectors of the children's services field. For more information see www.cwla.org

Foster Care Alumni of America is a national non-profit association that was founded and is led by alumni of the foster care system. Its mission is to connect the alumni community and to transform foster care policy and practice, ensuring opportunity for people in and from foster care. For more information see www.fostercarealumni.org

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