



For Immediate Release
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Grammy-winning artist Michael Bolton and best-selling author Jeff Benedict, honorees and speakers at DVCC's 20th Annual Voices of Courage Spring Luncheon

Stamford, CT – Grammy-winning singer, songwriter, actor, author, and humanitarian **Michael Bolton**, along with the best-selling author, journalist, producer, and advocate for the prevention of violence against women and children **Jeff Benedict**, will be honorees and speakers at DVCC's 20th Annual Voices of Courage Spring Luncheon. The event will take place on Thursday, May 19, from 11 am to 2 pm at Tokeneke Club in Darien.

Domestic violence is a pervasive problem affecting millions of people around the world. Although it is often thought of as a women's issue, domestic violence affects everyone – individuals, families, and communities. Men are well-positioned to play an essential role in the mission to end domestic violence, yet many are reluctant to lend their voices to this issue.

"We are thrilled to have Michael Bolton and Jeff Benedict as speakers and honorees," said Suzanne Adam, DVCC's Executive Director. "For three decades, these two men have demonstrated courage and commitment in their work to end domestic violence and their willingness to speak about the issue."

Michael Bolton

Michael Bolton is the recipient of the Voices of Courage Award. Michael has drawn attention to the domestic violence epidemic and urged other men to raise their voices for zero tolerance on the issue. He has been a consistent advocate for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (V.A.W.A.), one of pillars of the federal response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Founded in 1993, The Michael Bolton Charities provides assistance to women and children impacted by the devastating effects of domestic violence, sexual, physical and emotional abuse, through initiatives and programs that work to end these tragic cycles of violence and abuse.

The Michael Bolton Charities bridges the gap between researchers and policy makers to support and analyze evidence-based programs, such as "The Beyond Trauma-Youth Music Therapy" program which was developed in 2015 following extensive research. Through the Andie Koplik Residency in Music Therapy, the highly personalized music therapy program has proven to be an impactful and critical tool in the healing process for high-risk students who have been exposed to domestic violence and suffer from other significant forms of trauma.

In recent years, following extensive research, The Michael Bolton Charities developed a groundbreaking, life-changing initiative, the Beyond Trauma: Youth Music Therapy program. Through the Andie Koplik Residency in Music Therapy, the highly personalized music therapy program has proven to be an impactful and critical tool in the healing process for high-risk students who have a history of acute trauma.

Jeff Benedict

Jeff Benedict is the recipient of the White Ribbon Award. Jeff is a best-selling author, journalist, producer, and advocate for the prevention of violence against women and children. Before becoming a journalist, Benedict worked in the child victims unit of the district attorney's office in Boston, where he helped prosecute defendants charged with crimes against women and children. He also conducted a number of groundbreaking studies on violence against women on college campuses and on jury verdicts in sexual assault cases. Benedict has written extensively about violence against women.

DVCC is grateful for our event sponsors, including *Dede & Jim Barlett, Ellen B. Lubell & Leslie Byelas, John Watkins, The Jennifer Leahy Team, Marge Nickel, Janill & Sahul Sharma, the Benefit Shop Foundation, the McKean Fund, Stacy & Sam Reilly, Judith Udell, and Lizanne Galbreath*. For event details and ticket purchases, visit <https://givebutter.com/VOC22>. For questions about the event, contact Kim Polley at kpolley@dvccct.org, (203) 588-2900 ext. 124.

Since 1980, DVCC has supported individuals on their journey to safety, healing, and hope. DVCC advocates for individuals who are experiencing abuse in personal relationships. Our multiple services and professional staff help those experiencing any level of domestic violence and assist them in building a safer environment for the well-being of themselves and their families. All victim services are free and confidential, and all services offered are multicultural/multilingual.

DVCC's mission is to provide effective services, support, and education for the prevention and elimination of domestic violence across the Connecticut communities of Stamford, Norwalk, Darien, New Canaan, Weston, Westport, Wilton, and beyond. For more information, visit www.dvccct.org. **If you or someone you know needs help, please call or text the 24-hour hotline at 888-774-2900.**

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Voices of Courage 20th Annual Spring Luncheon Honoree & Speaker Bios

Michael Bolton

Michael Bolton, award-winning singer, songwriter, actor, author, and humanitarian, is the recipient of the Voices of Courage Award. Michael Bolton has been advocating on behalf of women and children at risk for more than 25 years. His foundation, The Michael Bolton Charities, has worked steadfastly to protect domestic violence victims and improve the lives of children impacted by trauma. One of its most successful and innovative projects is the Michael Bolton Charities' Beyond Trauma: Youth Music Therapy program, a one-of-a-kind groundbreaking initiative that reaches high risk students who have a history of acute trauma.

Michael Bolton is a multiple Grammy Award-winning Singer, Songwriter and Humanitarian, who has sold more than 65 million records globally and continues to tour the world. Bolton remains committed to humanitarian causes, especially through the Michael Bolton Charities.

Celebrating more than 50 years of contributions to the entertainment industry, Michael Bolton recently starred in The Celebrity Dating Game, A.B.C.'s reboot of the beloved dating gameshow. The fun-loving summer series aired primetime, ranking #1 in its slot.

Michael's most recent release A SYMPHONY OF HITS, a #1 album on the Billboard Classical Chart, is a collection of his favorite Greatest Hits newly arranged and recorded with a full symphony orchestra. To date, Michael has seen 9 studio albums rank in the Top Ten, with 9 #1 singles.

In recognition of his artistic achievements, Michael won 2 Grammys for Best Pop Male Vocal Performance (nominated four times), 6 American Music Awards, 3 Emmy nominations and a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. As a songwriter, he has earned over 24 B.M.I. & ASCAP Awards, including Songwriter of the Year, 9 Million-Air awards, and the Hitmakers Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

For his dedication to social activism, Michael has been honored with several Humanitarian awards – including the Martin Luther King Award granted by the Congress of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.), the Lewis Hine Award from The National Child Labor Committee, the Muhammed Ali Humanitarian Award, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, and the Frances Preston Lifetime Achievement Award. Michael is especially proud of the initiatives carried out by his own foundation, the Michael Bolton Charities, has been advocating on behalf of women and children at risk for more than 25 years.

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Founded in 1993, The Michael Bolton Charities provides assistance to women and children impacted by the devastating effects of domestic violence, sexual, physical and emotional abuse, through initiatives and programs that work to end these tragic cycles of violence and abuse. Those partnerships and collaborations have included: Safe Space of New Haven, created by The M.B.C. in partnership with the State of Connecticut and The CityKids Foundation; Project Homeward Bound, in partnership with the Yale Child Study Center; The Children's Advocacy Center of N.Y.C.; Prevent Child Abuse America in support of the Healthy Families America program; The N.Y.C. Office to Combat Domestic Violence, an association which contributed to the establishment of a Family Justice Center; and more than 100 organizations across the United States.

Michael Bolton has drawn attention to the domestic violence epidemic and urged other men to raise their voices for zero tolerance on the issue. He has been a consistent advocate for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (V.A.W.A.), one of pillars of the federal response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

In recent years, following extensive research, The Michael Bolton Charities developed a groundbreaking, life-changing initiative, the Beyond Trauma: Youth Music Therapy program. Through the Andie Koplik Residency in Music Therapy, the highly personalized music therapy program has proven to be an impactful and critical tool in the healing process for high-risk students who have a history of acute trauma.

Jeff Benedict

Jeff Benedict is the recipient of the White Ribbon Award. Jeff is the bestselling author of sixteen non-fiction books, as well as a television and film producer. His latest book, [The Dynasty](#), is the definitive inside story of the New England Patriots under Robert Kraft, Bill Belichick and Tom Brady. An instant *New York Times* bestseller, [The Dynasty](#) is the basis of a 10-part documentary series that is being produced by Imagine Documentaries in association with N.F.L. Films for Apple TV+. Jeff is a writer and executive producer for the series. In 2018, Jeff co-wrote the #1 bestseller *Tiger Woods* and he was an executive producer on the HBO documentary "Tiger" that was based on the book and aired in 2021. The book is currently being developed into a scripted series, which Jeff is executive producing. Jeff is also the executive producer on a documentary based on his book [Poisoned](#) for Campfire Studios that will air on Netflix. In 2017, Jeff co-produced "Little Pink House," a feature film starring Catherine Keener and Jeanne Tripplehorn that was based on his book of the same title. And in 2016, Jeff co-wrote with Hall of Fame quarterback Steve Young his critically acclaimed, bestselling autobiography Q.B.: [My Life Behind the Spiral](#). Jeff was also a writer on the N.F.L. Films documentary "A Football Life: Steve Young," which was based on the book.

Jeff has been a special-features writer for [Sports Illustrated](#), the [Los Angeles Times](#), and [The Hartford Courant](#), and his essays have appeared in the [New York Times](#). His stories have been the basis of segments on *60 Minutes*, *C.B.S. Sunday Morning*, *HBO Real Sports*, Discovery Channel, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *20/20*, *48 Hours*, N.F.L. Network, and NPR. Before becoming a journalist, Benedict worked in the child victims unit of the district attorney's office in Boston, where he helped prosecute defendants charged with crimes against women and children. He also conducted a number of groundbreaking studies on violence against women on college campuses and on jury verdicts in sexual assault cases. Benedict's first three books were about athletes and violence against women. He has been a legal analyst for network and cable news shows during domestic violence and sexual assault cases involving prominent athletes.