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‘Jane Doe No More’ founder to speak at gala

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BRISTOL — Author, advocate and founder of “Jane Doe No More” Donna Palomba will be the guest speaker at the Main Street Community Foundation’s “Wonder of Women” gala April 30 at The Aqua Turf Club.

The gala will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour at the club at 556 Mulberry

St. in Southington. The program will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. There will be food stations, dessert, coffee, a cash bar, networking opportunities and a silent auction. Proceeds will support the Women & Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation.

“The Wonder of Women event is an event that attracts hundreds of people, and one they look forward to every year,”

said Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer at the Main Street Community Foundation. “It’s also for a great cause as proceeds from the WOW event support the annual grantmaking from the Women & Girls Fund at Main Street Community Foundation to our community partners that work tirelessly to improve the lives of local women and

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Samantha Rajotte

Donna Palomba, founder of “Jane Doe No More”, will be a speaker at this year’s Wonder of Women gala April 30 at the Aqua Turf Club.

Gala fundraiser to support the Women & Girls Fund

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girls.”

Rajotte said that, last year, \$60,000 was awarded from the Women & Girls Fund to 14 organizations in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southinton and Wolcott.

According to a biography provided by the Main Street Community Foundation, Palomba is a nationally recognized speaker. She advocates for survivors of sexual crimes.

“Following a harrowing home invasion and assault in 1993, Donna faced further victimization when the police department mishandled her case,” the information read. “Her extraordinary strength, perseverance and leadership brought meaningful change to both police policy and Connecticut state law. In 2007, Donna’s case was the impetus for the removal of the statute of limitations on sexual

crimes with DNA evidence in Connecticut.”

Palomba’s experiences led her to found “Jane Doe No More,” a non-profit charity dedicated to “empowering survivors of sexual crimes to find their voice, advance their healing and educate others.”

Palomba’s story was featured in a two-hour show on Dateline NBC in 2007 and again in a new show in 2022. She was also featured in The New York Times Magazine in 2018. Her book, “Jane Doe No More”, was published in 2012.

Seats to the Wonder of Women event are \$75 per person.

The deadline to RSVP is April 16.

For more information, or to RSVP, call 860-583-6363 or visit mainstreetfoundation.org.

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