

Michael and Cheryl Pollack Honored at CeCe's Hope Center Gala

Written by Mallory Gleich
Monday, 20 October 2025 11:36 -



On October 25, the ballroom at [CeCe's Hope Center](#)'s Night of Light Gala will glow with candlelight, masks, and music. The true brilliance of the evening will come from stories of strength, survival, and the enduring power of generosity.

At the heart of this year's event are Valley philanthropists Michael and Cheryl Pollack, who will be recognized with the CeCe's Hope Award; an honor reserved for those whose impact on the fight against sexual exploitation is truly transformative.

The Night of Light Gala serves not only as CeCe's Hope Center's signature event, but as a powerful call to action in Arizona's ongoing effort to support survivors of sex trafficking. The organization, founded in 2017, was named in memory of a young woman who survived years of abuse and exploitation before her life was tragically cut short in 2016. CeCe's story now fuels a mission to provide what she never had enough of: safety, support, and a second chance.

"Supporting CeCe's Hope Center is an honor," Michael said. "Survivors deserve more than compassion; they deserve opportunity, empowerment, and a community that refuses to let them stand alone. I am proud to stand with CeCe's Hope Center and to help bring both resources and renewed energy to this year's gala."

CeCe's Hope Center serves women ages 18 to 30, offering safe housing, structured programming, trauma-informed care, and a pathway to independence. Their model combines immediate stabilization with long-term empowerment, giving survivors the tools and support they need to rebuild their lives.

Pollack is known throughout Arizona for a philanthropic reach that spans decades and touches every corner of the community. Through the Daniel Heath Pollack Memorial Foundation - named for his late son - he has championed causes ranging from health care and children's welfare to education and community development. Whether building a \$50,000 playground or sponsoring medical research, Pollack's giving has always centered on one purpose: creating better lives.

His support has extended to organizations including Child Crisis Arizona, Mayo Clinic, Save the Family, Special Olympics, and the Boys & Girls Club. Through contributions to Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona, he has helped fund job training and social services for countless families. And with Breakthrough T1D, he has been a lead supporter of events like the annual dinner and Type 1 Walk, funding research and support for those living with type 1 diabetes.

Still, those closest to his work know that Pollack's philanthropy isn't about public recognition—it's about the private, often unseen difference it makes. This year's gala will shine a light on that difference, as stories of survival are shared alongside tributes to the people helping make those stories possible. Learn more at cecescenter.org.