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For Immediate Release:

**11th Anniversary “Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring”
Raises \$91,000 for MENTOR Rhode Island**

(Warwick, RI) -- MENTOR Rhode Island’s (formerly The Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership) 11th anniversary Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring fundraiser was a huge success, netting the organization \$91,000. The event, held Thursday April 27th at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, was the culmination of months of practice and fundraising by our eight local celebrity dancers. The stars and their expert partners from The Dancing Feeling studio battled it out in a fierce dancing competition for the Judges’ Choice award, while the People’s Choice Award was presented to the star who raised the most money for the organization.

“We are so thankful for the generosity of the dancers, their friends and colleagues, and the more than 500 people who attended,” says MENTOR Rhode Island President and CEO Jo-Ann Schofield. “The community partnership and collaboration that occurs to make this event possible is extraordinary. From the experts at The Dancing Feeling, to the folks at Coastway Community Bank who orchestrate our Silent Auction, our friends at the Washington Trust Company who coordinate our popular wine grab bag, and our generous sponsors, each piece comes together seamlessly the evening of the event. The money we raised will help us improve and expand quality mentoring programs around the state at a time when so many local youth could benefit from a mentor.”

MENTOR Rhode Island is thankful to our local celebrities who worked so hard over the past several months to perfect their routines, fundraise and promote the event.

- Bekah Berger, Hot 106
- Shannon Brodeur, Cox Business
- Christopher Cioe, Northwestern Mutual
- Jayne Donegan, Textron
- Melanie Flamand, Flamand & Associates
- Ivan Marte, Year Up!
- Rick Medeiros, The Pawtucket Red Sox
- Nicole Truppi, Navigant Credit Union
- Amy Pontes, LITE ROCK 105, for Co-Hosting
- Heather Gersten, LITE ROCK 105, Master of Ceremonies

Special mention goes to Jayne Donegan of Textron who brought home the People's Choice Award by raising nearly \$13,000 in individual donations.

Bekah Berger of Hot 106 took home the Judges' Choice award for best overall performance and Rick Medeiros of the Pawtucket Red Sox with an assist from Paws and Sox (the PawSox mascots) captured the award for Most Entertaining dance.

If you are interested in donating directly to MENTOR Rhode Island or interested in learning more about how you can become a mentor to one of the 900 kids on our waiting lists, please visit: www.mentorRI.org



About MENTOR Rhode Island

Our mission is to ensure youth have access to the motivational and supportive relationships they need to grow into confident, successful adults. We envision a Rhode Island where all youth are connected to relationships with adults who inspire and support them. All youth will have role models who provide a road map for lifelong success and achievement. MENTOR Rhode Island serves as an umbrella organization for dozens of mentoring programs around Rhode Island offering help with recruitment, training, and other support. MENTOR Rhode Island is also directly responsible for the coordination of the school-based mentoring programs in Warwick, Woonsocket, Newport, Middletown, Cranston, & Pawtucket. For more information visit our website www.mentorry.org