



For immediate release

Innovative “Thrive Like a Lady” Program Now Available at Two Valley Schools

Female students at Step Up Charter School and Mountain Pointe High School to learn critical life skills for success and confidence

Phoenix, AZ, Feb. 21, 2018 – Phoenix-based non-profit, [Thrive Community Services](#), is bringing its signature “[Thrive Like a Lady](#)” program to female students at two Valley schools: [Step Up Schools](#), a kindergarten-eighth (K–8) grade charter school in Mesa, and [Mountain Pointe High School](#) in Ahwatukee. Beginning in the Spring 2018 semester, sixth through eighth grade girls at Step Up and sophomore and junior girls at Mountain Pointe will participate in this class once weekly for nine sessions and learn critical life skills, including:

- Self-confidence
- Social etiquette
- Personal branding
- Financial literacy
- Communications skills, including interviewing
- Safety and awareness
- Volunteerism

“As girls develop, we often teach them about becoming a woman, but transcending into a lady has been lost in translation,” said [Keisha McKinnor](#), CEO of Thrive Community Services, Inc. “Our answer is a weekly program that equips girls with the necessary tools, skills and information to transform them into confident, capable young ladies and future leaders.”

Thrive Like a Lady was developed in 2017 by McKinnor, as she noticed a critical gap in the confidence-building life skills taught to young women, especially those in economically-challenged neighborhoods. The program targets girls ages 12-16 and connects them with leaders in the community through a nine-week program focused on transforming the girls into capable young women.

Step Up Schools, a Title 1, non-profit charter school in the heart of the heritage-rich, Washington-Escobedo community in downtown Mesa, serves a diverse student population, many of whom come from economically-challenged families. The [school’s objective](#) is to provide a “high-quality and comprehensive education” and help their students understand that “living a life of possibilities and fulfillment of their dreams is through education.”

“We are thrilled to partner with Thrive Community Services to bring the Thrive Like a Lady program to sixth through eighth grade girls at Step Up,” said [Diane Fernichio](#), Dean of Students at Step Up Schools. “The program complements our commitment to providing holistic education to our students by teaching young ladies critical life skills required for them to optimize their education and turn dreams into reality.”



Mountain Pointe High School, located in Ahwatukee, is part of the Tempe Union High School District. With a [mission](#) to “Inspire purpose, pride, and performance in every student,” the school is offering the Thrive Like a Lady program to sophomore and junior girls with the objective of the students implementing their new skills immediately as they assess career paths, and interview with and assess colleges.

“Part of our vision for our students is to provide high-performing learning communities and connect the students with the larger professional community, said Tomika Banks, Assistant Principal of Academics at Mountain Pointe High School. “Thrive Like a Lady helps us achieve that vision by bringing in successful, professional women from the community to teach and model critical personal and professional life skills.”

Thrive Like a Lady is led weekly by Thrive CEO, Keisha McKinnor, but includes local women professionals with expertise in each of the program’s nine topics. To learn more about Thrive Community Services and the Thrive Like a Lady program or to learn how your school can participate, visit ThriveCS.org.

About Thrive Community Services

[Thrive Community Services, Inc.](http://ThriveCommunityServices, Inc) is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization serving the Phoenix metropolitan area and dedicated to transforming communities by improving the quality of life for individuals and families. The organization’s signature program is [Thrive Like a Lady](#), targeting girls ages 12-16. For more information, visit ThriveCS.org.

About Step Up Charter School

STEP UP Charter School is a K – 8, Title 1, nonprofit, charter school established in 2012. The school is in the heart of the heritage rich, Washington-Escobedo community and is housed in Mesa’s Washington Park Activity Center. The school serves a population of about 96 students, many of whom are economically disadvantaged. Step Up offers high-quality, comprehensive education rich in math, science, reading and writing, in a small, safe and nurturing environment. For more information, visit StepUpSchoolsmMesa.org.

About Mountain Point High School

Mountain Pointe is in the community of Ahwatukee which is in the southern part of Phoenix, Arizona. It is the fifth school in the Tempe Union High School District and operates with a student population of more than 2700. Mountain Pointe boasts of one of the finest educational opportunities for high school students in the state of Arizona. For more information, visit TempeUnion.org/MountainPointe

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