

For Immediate Release

August 16, 2022

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Aging Care Connections Hosts Sports Ball 2022 Fundraiser

It's Time to Get the Team Together Once Again

La Grange, IL – August 16, 2022 – Aging Care Connections invites old friends, new friends, and sports lovers to share the excitement of its 21st annual Sports Ball fundraiser on Friday, September 9, 2022 at Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse at the Westin Hotel, Lombard, Illinois. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a reception, followed by dinner and program at 7:00 p.m. A silent auction including sports memorabilia, outings, and event tickets runs throughout the event.

"We're thrilled to host this event in person once again," said Desiree Scully, Aging Care Connections' Executive Director. "For the past two years Sports Ball was only online, and we were very successful. But there's really no substitute for getting together with friends and supporters for what we know is going to be a terrific evening, an evening that we believe will not only entertain, but inspire, as well."

Dionne Miller, ABC-7 weekend sports anchor, returns for the sixth consecutive year as event emcee. Dionne Miller has built a stellar reputation as a reporter who tells great stories and connects with viewers. She has a passion for sports, and it shows. When Miller first started reporting sports in Chicago, she hit the ground running. She was assigned to cover opening day at Wrigley Field and simultaneously fell in love with the city and its fans. She's since covered it all, from the Bears to the Bulls, the Hawks to high school sports. Prior to coming to Chicago, Miller covered the Cleveland Cavaliers and served as a college football sideline reporter for the Big Ten Network.

Popular Chicago comedian *Jim Flannigan* joins the event team for the first time this year. A nationally touring stand-up comedian known for his fast paced, clever punchlines, Jim is a regular headliner at top comedy clubs across the country including Zanies, The Improv, Brad Garrett's Comedy Club. Jim has opened for some of the biggest names in the world of comedy, including Sebastian Maniscalco and has made TV appearances on ABC, WGN, NBC Sports, and IFC Network. Flannigan is also the co-host of the hilarious *All Over the Place*, a weekly podcast that is just that, with Pat McGann.

This year's special sports celebrity guest is *Robbie Hummel*, currently a respected Big 10 Network and ESPN basketball commentator. A former Purdue and NBA basketball player, Hummel overcame numerous injuries and built a successful 3-on-3 basketball career before transitioning to the broadcast booth. Jason Benetti, best known as the play-by-play voice of the Chicago White Sox, is frequently partnered with Hummel on ESPN basketball broadcasts. He observes, "Robbie has become a star at this,

and he acts zero percent like that,” Benetti said. “I never worked with somebody who’s as generous, hardworking, caring about the product and driven, to go along with being a great guy. The combo he has is truly a special thing.”

Tickets are \$160 each or guests can purchase a table of 10 for \$1,500. Raffle prizes include a week’s stay at a luxurious resort in Puerto Vallarta, a stay in a lakefront Chicago condo, and a Lake Michigan cruise onboard a 50’ luxury yacht. Visit AgingCareConnections.org for information and tickets. Or contact Jan Walch, Director of Philanthropy and External Affairs, jwalch@agingcareconnections.org. All funds raised support the programs and services of Aging Care Connections.

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Aging Care Connections is a valuable nonprofit community resource devoted to helping older adults in 38 Chicagoland communities live vital, independent lives as they age. Located in La Grange, Illinois, Aging Care Connections provides community-based services that promote dignity, self-respect and independence including information and assistance, benefits assistance, case management, care coordination, caregiver support, meals programs, educational/fitness/social programs, adult protective services, and programs for grandparents raising grandchildren.