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**Amy Van Dyken Receives Standing Ovation at Peak Vista's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast of Champions<sup>®</sup>**

**Colorado Springs, Colo.** – Nearly 700 guests attended Peak Vista Community Health Centers' (Peak Vista) Thirteen Annual Breakfast of Champions<sup>®</sup> on Thursday, October 26, 2017. Attendees heard from numerous philanthropic community members, including Peak Vista's President and CEO, Pam McManus, Grace Covington, Covington Homes, Dr. Regina Lewis, Pikes Peak Community College, and six-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Amy Van Dyken.

Van Dyken was featured as Keynote Speaker and shared her story, which began at age six when Van Dyken took up swimming to help her in a battle against asthma. Van Dyken could not swim the full length of an Olympic-size pool until age twelve, but she persisted and conquered every challenge. She qualified for the 1996 Olympics and won her first gold medal.

Van Dyken noted the day her life changed – June 6, 2014 –near her home in Arizona, when her spine was severely injured during an ATV accident. Her case was so serious that she and her husband, former Denver Broncos punter Tom Rouen, said their goodbyes before she was rushed into surgery. "I never had to worry about insurance or being able to afford health care before," commented Van Dyken, "this is the reality for many Peak Vista patients."

Nearly 91% of Peak Vista patients receive Medicare or Medicaid coverage or carry no private insurance at all. For many Peak Vista patients, choosing health care comes at a cost. Many face difficult decisions such as buying food for their children or seeing a doctor. Others face difficult questions such as, "do I have enough money for gas to get to work if I pay for my co-pay at the doctor's office?" Peak Vista helps answer these kinds of questions.

Peak Vista's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast of Champions<sup>®</sup> raised almost \$25,000 during the breakfast and more donations are still expected to arrive. "Amy has a remarkable story that is inspiring," said McManus, "she was a wonderful choice to help champion the importance of perseverance and inspiration." "Our supporters in this community are exceptional and it is their ongoing commitment and support that allows us to continue to make such an impact." The donations received enable Peak Vista to provide medical, dental and behavioral health care to over 90,000 patients through the Pikes Peak and East Central regions. Patients who otherwise may not have access to health care.

**About Peak Vista Community Health Centers**

Peak Vista Community Health Centers is a local nonprofit primary care organization whose mission is to provide exceptional health care to people facing access barriers through clinical programs and education. Established in 1971, Peak Vista offers primary medical, dental and integrated behavioral



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health services to over 90,000 patients and working families annually in Colorado's Pikes Peak and the East Central regions. To learn more about Peak Vista, visit [peakvista.org](http://peakvista.org).

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