FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2026

Contact:

Hannah McKinnon
Lead Communications Coordinator
hannah@calmwaters.org
405-841-4803 ext. 107

Sherri Coale to Keynote Calm Waters' Annual Ripples of Hope Benefit Breakfast

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Calm Waters Center for Children and Families, Oklahoma's largest grief center providing free grief support services and private counseling to children and families, will host its annual benefit breakfast, Ripples of Hope, on Tuesday, August 18, from 7:30 to 9:00am at the Will Rogers Theatre, 4233 N. Western Ave., Oklahoma City.

As the only agency in Oklahoma City providing grief-focused mental health services, Calm Waters serves thousands of children in grief each year. An estimated 1 in 10 Oklahoma children, nearly 98,000, will experience the death of a parent or sibling before turning 18, a life-altering loss that can have lasting effects on a child's mental health, academic success, and overall well-being if left unaddressed.

As childhood bereavement gains recognition as a public health priority, access to grief support has never been more critical. Through free support groups at the Calm Waters Center and in schools across Oklahoma, as well as grief education and counseling services, Calm Waters is meeting this growing need.

This year's keynote speaker, Sherri Coale, will lend her voice to Calm Waters' mission of ensuring every child and family has access to grief support. During her 25-year coaching career, Coale led one of the nation's premier collegiate basketball programs, guiding her teams to multiple conference championships, 19 consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, and three Final Four appearances. As a nationally recognized speaker, author, and master motivator, Coale's presence will help shine a light on the importance of supporting grief support services across Oklahoma.

"Every child deserves the opportunity to grieve in a safe, supportive environment," said Calm Waters Chief Executive Officer, Trisha Koelsch. "Ripples of Hope is an investment in the emotional well-being of children and families across our community. Together, we can ensure no one has to navigate grief alone or without access to the support they need."

All proceeds from Ripples of Hope will benefit Calm Waters, which provides free grief support services for children and families on their grief journey caused by death, divorce or other significant loss

Individual tickets are available for $75 each and sponsorship levels range from $750-$10,000. To purchase tickets or a sponsorship, please visit calmwaters.org /events/ripples-of-hope/or call 405-841-4800. For sponsorship questions, contact Calm Waters Development Coordinator, Sue Smith, at sue@calmwaters.org.

###

Calm Waters Center for Children and Families provides grief support services for children, individuals, and families on their grief journey caused by death, divorce or other significant loss. Since beginning in 1992, Calm Waters has impacted more than 84,000 Oklahomans. For more information about Calm Waters and their services, visit calmwaters.org.

Link to photos:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/7a8lqdt6ee78q0l5wo9ro/APEMjISjd0RWoOq7b1cL0Xo?rlkey=ulsgxoksgrflkp0k1oiz99haf&st=khwovuo7&dl=0