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Standup Comedy Icon and Emmy Award Winning Reporter Join Forces to Heal Children's Hearts

SHELTON, CT — October 23, 2025 — Stand-up comedy icon, podcaster, and creativity coach **Lisa Lampanelli** brought laughter and inspiration to a capacity crowd at the 6th Annual *Dancing with the Stars* fundraiser benefiting **Adam's House** on October 17 at the Fairfield Theatre Company.

Lampanelli was joined by **Celebrity Emcee** and Emmy Award–winning NBC Connecticut anchor **Taylor Kinzler**, who guided the audience through an exciting lineup of eight dance pairs. The performances were judged by a lively panel featuring Lampanelli, business leader and community advocate **Mike Duncan**, and **Ivana Strancaric**, Dance Director at Fred Astaire Dance Studios.

Fred Astaire Dance Studios from **Hamden, Norwalk, Orange, and Shelton** participated in the event, coming together to support Adam's House's mission of providing **free grief education, peer support, and resources** that empower children and families to navigate loss with strength, resilience, and hope.

This year's **Top Fundraiser Award** went to **Ann Green**, a student at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Shelton. Both the **People's Choice** and **Judges' Choice** awards were presented to **Lauren Murphy** and her professional partner **Dusan Kostic** from the Norwalk studio for their crowd-pleasing Mambo, which earned a standing ovation.

"*Dancing with the Stars* is our premier fundraising event, with proceeds benefiting our *Helping Hearts Heal* grief education and peer-support program, which is offered at no cost to grieving children and families," said **Allison Wysota**, Founder of Adam's House. "Since 2017, Adam's House has transformed more than 450 lives through grief education and peer support. This event not only raises awareness in the communities we serve, it helps us continue our vital work across Fairfield and New Haven Counties and beyond."

The evening opened with stand-up comedian and *Shrink This* podcast co-host **Nick Scopoletti**, who warmed up the crowd and set the tone for an unforgettable night.

Adam's House extends heartfelt thanks to its sponsors, including the **Jimmy McGrath Foundation, Thor Specialties, DR Bank, Aquarion Water Company, and M&T Bank**, for their generous support.

About Adam's House

Adam's House is a non-profit organization located in Shelton, CT, that provides free grief education and peer support programs to children and families who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Adam's House offers a safe, welcoming environment where children and families can share their experiences and receive the support they need to heal through an 8-week peer support group entitled 'Helping Hearts Heal'. For more information about Adam's House and its programs, visit www.adamshousect.org.