



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAM TO AID RESTAURANT AND HOSPITALITY WORKERS  
LAUNCHES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

*Women of the Vine & Spirits Foundation offers aid, staffed by experienced clinicians, financial professionals and attorneys, 24 hours a day/7 days a week*

**January 26, 2021 (New York, NY) –**[Women of the Vine & Spirits Foundation](#), Ltd. 501(c)(3), the charitable arm of [Women of the Vine & Spirits](#) (WOTVS) has launched a groundbreaking assistance program offering health, financial and legal aid to restaurant and hospitality workers in response to COVID-19.

WOTVS Foundation, which provides scholarships to women to advance their careers in the food, wine, spirits, beer, and hospitality industries, was faced with the challenge to find an innovative solution to offer aid to those in need. Normally these types of benefits are paid for by the employer, but due to the pandemic, many industry professionals have been laid off, furloughed or working reduced hours leaving them in need, with no assistance.

In order to provide quality services and benefits to those who need it most, WOTVS Foundation has partnered with ComPsych Corporation, the worldwide leader of fully integrated EAP, behavioral health, wellness, work-life, HR, FMLA and absence management services under its GuidanceResources® brand. ComPsych GuidanceResources® core services include short-term counseling, treatment referrals, financial, retirement, legal, family, child, elder assistance, and intervention for critical incidents and more.

Through a 24/7 toll-free number and best-in-class well-being portal, members can access confidential assistance with experienced clinicians, financial professionals, and attorneys, as well as leading self-service tools and resources.

“Restaurant and hospitality workers have been one of the hardest hit professionals due to the pandemic. So many of our colleagues are experiencing increased stress, anxiety, worries and fears,” said **President, WOTVS Foundation, and Founder & CEO, WOTVS, Deborah Brenner**. “Giving people a direct connection to counseling, professional, financial, legal advisors and valuable resources for all of life’s issues is a critical step toward healing those on the front lines and supporting the recovery of our industry”

Thanks to a generous donation from **Love, Tito’s**, the philanthropic arm of **Tito’s Handmade Vodka**, a Silver Corporate Member of WOTVS and Affiliate Donor to the WOTVS Foundation, the program is able to support qualified candidates who will receive the WOTVS Foundation Assistance Program until January 31, 2022.

“The pandemic’s impact continues to cause immense stress to those in the restaurant and hospitality industry,” said **Lisa Huddleson**, Director of Strategic Philanthropy at Tito’s Handmade Vodka. “We’re honored to work with WOTVS on this program and are committed to doing what we can to support our service industry friends in their time of need.”

Applicants must be employed in the restaurant and/or hospitality industry for a minimum of three years or currently unemployed, furloughed, or working fewer hours, having previously worked for a minimum of three years prior to their current unemployment status. For those employed, please check with your HR Manager if your company offers an EAP program before applying. Applicants must be U.S. residents. The Foundation hopes to fund additional enrollees outside of the U.S. in the near future. Enrollment is on an annual basis and enrollment term is February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022.

To apply, **fill out this form.**

**For companies that wish to donate to the WOTVS Foundation Assistance Program** to increase access and program tools, please contact [foundation@womenofthevine.com](mailto:foundation@womenofthevine.com).

**For individuals that wish to donate to the WOTVS Foundation** and support the scholarship fund: [Click Here](#)

**Thank You to Our WOTVS Foundation 2021 Donors:** *Patron:* E. & J. Gallo Winery; *Affiliate:* Skrewball Spirits, Tito's Handmade Vodka; *Supporter:* Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits; *Friend:* Grounded World.

#### **About the Women of the Vine & Spirits Foundation**

The Women of the Vine & Spirits Foundation, Ltd. 501(c)(3) is the charitable arm of Women of the Vine & Spirits. The Foundation provides scholarships and awards for the purpose of helping women advance their careers in the food, wine, spirits, beer, or hospitality industries through education, leadership, and professional development, as well as fostering gender diversity and talent development across the industry at large. For more information, please visit [womenofthevine.com/foundation](http://womenofthevine.com/foundation). To donate to the WOTVS Foundation: [Click Here](#)  
All donations are 100% Tax Deductible as a 501(c)(3) Charitable Contribution, Tax ID number (EIN) #47-4326632

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