



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **CMSA DONATES \$5,000 TO GRATEFUL GATHERINGS AS PART OF CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE CHARITY PROGRAM**

(CMSA, Cerritos, CA) – On April 23, 2022, CMSA President Steve Weitekamp and CMSA Senior Chairman John Chipman Jr. presented a \$5,000 check to Grateful Gatherings Co-Founders Donna Wright Somerville and Chris Flitter at the Excellence High Sierra Awards Luncheon at the 104th Annual CMSA Convention held at Peppermill Resort Casino Spa in Reno, Nevada.

Grateful Gathering is the recipient of the 2021 & 2022 Chairman's Choice Charity program. This program allows every incoming CMSA Chairman to select a charity, with board approval, to make a one-time \$5,000 contribution on behalf of the CMSA.

During Chipman's extended tenure as the 2020-2022 CMSA Chairman due to the pandemic, he selected Grateful Gatherings as his Chairman's Choice Charity for both of his years of service. In total, the organization will have received \$10,000!

#### About Grateful Gatherings:

Grateful Gatherings began in 2013 when Donna and her family saw a 10-year-old named Ayisha on the local news talking about being homeless during the holidays. Donna connected with the family and delivered Christmas dinner and presents. A few months later, Ayisha's family was placed in a new apartment but had nothing to furnish their new home... nothing! Donna emailed 20 friends; within four days, Ayisha's family had enough furniture and household items to set up their new home and new life.

Grateful Gatherings has turned into a vibrant, close-knit, and dedicated community of volunteers, donors, and corporate partners who help furnish homes of families transitioning out of homelessness or crisis, including single mothers, foster children, and military veterans.

The CMSA is a nonprofit trade association representing more than 375 licensed and insured movers operating in California. The CMSA also includes more than 195 associate member companies. Established in 1916, the Association is comprised of 12 chapters strategically located throughout California.



(L-R) CMSA President Steve Weitekamp, Donna Wright Somerville & Chris Flitter representing Grateful Gatherings, and CMSA Senior Chairman John Chipman Jr.