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Media Contact: Christopher Owens, Director of Development, Marketing & Community Relations  
Phone: (901) 800-5117      Email: [chris.owens@commontablehealth.org](mailto:chris.owens@commontablehealth.org)

**Common Table Health Alliance Announces Annual Meeting and Community Improvement Gala featuring Emmy Award-winning special guest**

Television, theatre and film actress Lynn Whitfield, along with four leading experts in social determinants of health, will address community improvement in women's health in Memphis and Shelby County

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (April 27, 2017)** — Common Table Health Alliance (CTHA) will launch its inaugural Annual Meeting and Community Improvement Gala with a panel of four local social determinant experts representing safety, public health, mental health and government affairs on Tuesday, May 23. The panel will address the theme, "The Community Impact of Social Determinants on Women's Health in Memphis, TN", followed by a call to action by actress Lynn Whitfield.

The panel will explore the cross-section of poverty, education, community safety and other social, economic and environmental factors that influence health status in high-priority zip codes, including 38106, 38109, 38116 and 38128. Panelists will include Tennessee State Representative Raumes Akbari, Memphis Police Department Director Mike Rallings, American Psychiatric Association President-elect Altha Stewart, MD, and Shelby County Health Department Chief of Epidemiology David Sweat. Whitfield, who currently stars as the pastor's wife of a fictitious Memphis mega-church on the Oprah Winfrey Network's original scripted drama "Greenleaf", will also share how her television role influences her advocacy and support for women's issues and women's health.

"The Annual Meeting and Community Improvement Gala is a key fundraiser that supports CTHA and provides the opportunity to explore critical health concerns in our community before local leaders," said Barry-Lewis Harris II, MD, CTHA Chief Executive Officer. "Our panelists are instrumental in providing insights on best practices that can be implemented to elevate and improve the Mid-South area, and including an actress of Ms. Whitfield's caliber who promotes and encourages community improvement in women's health and wellness will assist the Common Table in articulating our message throughout the community."

Additionally, CTHA will share its newly-adopted social change model and will recognize board members and long-standing legacy sponsors for their support. Attendees will include residents who live in affected/priority communities, business leaders, health care executives, elected officials, nonprofit advocates and the general public..

The Gala will take place from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Hilton Memphis Hotel, 939 Ridge Lake Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38120. General admission pricing begins at \$100, with VIP Admission that includes a meet-and-greet with Ms. Whitfield begins at \$150. For more information about CTHA's Annual Meeting and Community Improvement Gala or to purchase tickets, please call (901) 684-6011 or visit [commontablehealth.org](http://commontablehealth.org).

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**About Common Table Health Alliance**

Common Table Health Alliance is a multi-stakeholder, community-based, nonprofit regional health and health care improvement collaborative whose mission is to bridge the gap of health inequalities for all communities through trust, collaboration and education. Founded in 2000, the organization's REAL community goals are to reduce chronic disease occurrences, educate and empower children and adult, activate consumers to focus on healthy living, and lead the charge to lift health care quality. To learn more about the work of Common Table Health Alliance, visit [www.commontablehealth.org](http://www.commontablehealth.org).