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PRESS RELEASE

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**HOUSTON TEXANS WHITNEY MERCILUS TACKLES THE CAUSE FOR
CEREBRAL PALSY**

-Whitney Mercilus and the WithMerci Foundation Holds Annual Fundraiser

-Dine WithMerci to GiveWithMerci-

HOUSTON, TX- Houston Texans Whitney Mercilus, a champion for community empowerment, known for showing **NO MERCI** on the field, but off the field, he is known for utilizing his platform to give hope and touch lives. Founder of the WithMerci Foundation, Mercilus work is focused on providing advocate services and financial support to families of children with disabilities and special needs. In an effort to continue to provide fiscal assistance while giving a "hand-up" to those in need, the WithMerci Foundation presents its' 3rd annual fundraiser ***Dine WithMerci*** on **Monday, November 5, 2018 at The Ballroom at Bayou Place** located at **500 Texas St. Houston, Texas 77002. The red carpet is set for 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. with the dinner and program immediately following from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Whitney Mercilus and the WithMerci Foundation have donated over **\$250,000.00** since its inception to support organizations servicing children with special needs. In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Mercilus and his foundation were champions on the road to recovery. During their post-Harvey back-to-school bash "Returning 2 Learning," students within the Houston Independent School District (HISD) received FREE haircuts, hairstyles, school supplies, backpacks and meals and were able to continue this event this year offering the same services and so much more. Additionally, they have donated **\$65,000.00** towards recovery efforts to **Smartie Pants Academy**, a school specifically servicing students with disabilities and special needs and **\$50,000.00** to **HISD for the Department of Special Education**. Last year the foundation focused on assisting children with autism, this year, 2018, the foundation is placing its' focus on Cerebral Palsy. Mercilus and the WithMerci Foundation will present a cash donation to **Easter Seals of Greater Houston and the Astros Foundation**. Each organization provides advocate services and support to families with children with Cerebral Palsy.

"I can't believe this is our third year, this has been a long journey that has been worth every moment. I started the WithMerci Foundation because I love working with

children, and I've developed a passion to help underprivileged kids whose parents can't afford the cost for medical equipment or pharmaceutical drugs," said Mercilus. This year Mercilus will recognize Houston philanthropists, **Houston Texans Hall of Famer Andre Johnson, Original Texans Chester Pitts, The legendary Lauren Anderson, Fashion Icon Lynn Wyatt and Astros great Nolan Ryan.** Donors will also be able to bid on sports memorabilia and luxury gifts and connect with the honorees for the night. **Original Texan, Chester Pitts, KPRC morning anchor, Owen Conflenti and ABC13 News anchor Gina Gatson will serve as hosts for the night. Mayor Sylvester Turner will also be in attendance to do a special presentation. This year's sponsors include, Bank of Texas, The Hotaling Group and MSF Law Firm**

For more information about The WithMerci Foundation, please visit www.withmerci.org. You can connect with the foundation on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @withmerci.

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ABOUT WITHMERCIF FOUNDATION

The WithMerci Foundation was founded in 2016 by Houston Texans Outside-Linebacker Whitney Mercilus. The Foundation provides opportunities and financial support to families of children with disabilities and specials needs. The foundation was created in 2016 and within the past two years it has raised nearly three-hundred thousand dollars. Each year the WithMerci Foundation chooses a different disability to focus on and use its' platform to educate the community. In 2017 the foundation focused on children with Autism and this year (2018) the foundation is focusing on Cerebral Palsy. The WithMerci Foundation offer grants to organizations who are working with children with disabilities each year. Organizations interested in receiving grant money from the WithMerci Foundation can apply at www.withmerci.org. Stay connected on social media @withmerci.

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