

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 15, 2013 Contact: Benjamin Gerdes: (703) 328.0360 <u>ben@congwomensoftball.org</u>

McDonald's to be Lead Partner of Congressional Women's Softball Game for 3rd Consecutive Year

Washington, DC – The Congressional Women's Softball Game (CWSG) announced today that McDonald's will be the lead partner of the Game for the third consecutive year. The CWSG will take place on Wednesday, June 26th between women Members of Congress and women of the Washington Press Corps to benefit the Young Survival Coalition (YSC), a nonprofit focused exclusively on the unique needs of young women diagnosed with breast cancer. McDonald's joins a robust list of partners committed to combating breast cancer, including Nike, Johnson & Johnson, Grant Thornton, HM&Co, Orange Cow Ice Cream Truck, and Hello Cupcake.

"McDonald's is proud to be the lead sponsor of the Congressional Women's Softball Game for the third consecutive year," said **Steve Hilton, Vice President, Global Government and Public Affairs.** "Every year, we look forward to this event because the spirit and energy exhibited there shows us that political and ideological differences are insignificant when compared to the need to support each other and celebrate life as one community. Thank you, Young Survival Coalition, for allowing McDonald's to contribute to your efforts to help young women diagnosed with breast cancer."

"Young Survival Coalition feels honored to have McDonald's show its commitment to ensuring no young woman faces breast cancer alone by serving as lead partner of the Congressional Women's Softball game for the third year in a row," commented **Jennifer Merschdorf, CEO of YSC**. "Breast cancer not only affects the young woman who is diagnosed, but also every person who knows and loves that individual – this event is an amazing show of bipartisan solidarity for everyone who's life has been touched by breast cancer."

"The Organizing Committee is excited about the swell of support for the Fifth Annual Congressional Women's Softball Game," said **Kate Houghton, Co-Chair of the CWSG**. "While we enjoy the spirited and healthy debate between the Bad News Babes and Members of Congress about who reigns on the softball field, the real reason we come together is to support organizations like Young Survival Coalition that go beyond awareness and dealing with a cancer diagnosis. McDonald's partnership enables the Game and its players to impact the lives of young women affected by breast cancer who are rebuilding their lives and learning to embrace what it means to be a survivor."

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The Congressional Women's Softball game brings together women from both sides of the aisle to raise public awareness around young women and breast cancer, as well as critical funds to help YSC address the unique needs facing young women diagnosed with this disease. The game was founded in 2009 by Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), a young breast cancer survivor herself. Now in its fifth year, the game continues to emphasize a bipartisan commitment to women's health and fighting breast cancer.

The women Members of Congress will be captained by Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL). The DC Press Corps (aka Bad News Babes) will be captained by Dana Bash, CNN; Carrie Budoff Brown, Politico; Brianna Keiler, CNN; Abby Livingston, CQ Roll Call and Amy Walter, ABC News. To learn more about the Congressional Women's Softball game, congwomensoftball.org.