



NEWS RELEASE

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## **SafeHaven celebrates 30 years and kicks off capital campaign**

Fort Worth, TX (Sept. 3, 2009) – Thirty years ago, protective orders didn't exist, police rarely arrested batterers and schools wouldn't enroll children residing in domestic violence shelters. Today, three decades after the fight against domestic violence began with a few local women running small safe houses in secrecy, police officers personally bring victims to SafeHaven's shelters; we have partnerships with schools and a legal department to obtain protective orders represent victims in civil legal cases. Thirty years ago, domestic violence was treated as a private family matter. Today it is treated as what it is—a crime.

In honor of how far we've come but in anticipation of how far we have to go, SafeHaven kicked off its "\$30,000 in 30 Days" major gifts campaign this month. Ginny Tigue chairs the campaign, which is part of SafeHaven's celebration of serving domestic violence victims in Tarrant County for more than 30 years.

An anonymous donor has agreed to match what SafeHaven contributors donate during this 30-day campaign.

In 1976, local women founded the Women's Haven in Fort Worth to serve the area's battered women and children. Two years later, women in Arlington followed suit and founded The Women's Shelter. The two organizations merged to form SafeHaven in 2006.

"In these tough financial times, we set the goal to raise \$30,000 for our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday," said Tigue. "We want to commemorate the thousands of women who have created violence-free lives for themselves using SafeHaven's services."

The campaign culminates with an Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> reception given by Len and Laurie Roberts at their home in Fort Worth. Two mother-daughter teams are heading up preparations for the party: Reece Small, VP of Marketing and Development at SafeHaven, staffs the committee, which is co-chaired by her daughter Brook Whitworth. CEO Mary Lee Hafley's daughter, Holly Gathright, is the other co-chair.

"We decided to team up with our daughters in honor of the mothers and daughters who have built violence-free lives for themselves as a result of SafeHaven's services," said Hafley.

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## **Add one: SafeHaven celebrates 30 years and kicks off capital campaign**

Other celebration committee members include Lauren Smith and Lacy Walker. The party will serve as the starting point for a group of donors, the SafeFutures Society, who will make a minimum \$1,000 contribution annually.

For more information or to be a part of our \$30,000 in 30 Days campaign or to join SafeFutures Society, please contact Reece Small at 817-535-6462, ext. 105 or [rsmall@safehaventc.org](mailto:rsmall@safehaventc.org).

### **About SafeHaven**

SafeHaven of Tarrant County is a nonprofit organization that exists to end family violence through safety, support, prevention and social change. SafeHaven's two emergency shelters, one in Arlington and one in Fort Worth, accommodate a combined 174 women and children, making SHTC one of the largest shelters in Texas.

In 2008, SHTC sheltered over 2,700 adult and child victims and provided non-residential services through our Resource Centers to more than 3,700 other clients seeking emotional, legal and practical support to move from "victim" to "survivor". *Staff and volunteers answered 41,767 hotline calls in 2008, an 81% increase over 2007.* In addition to protecting victims and creating opportunities to achieve independence and self-sufficiency, SHTC also educates approximately 60,000 individuals annually. The majority of these are students who learn warning signs of relationship abuse

A leader in the domestic violence field, SHTC operates a full continuum of specialized programs, utilizes community volunteers and runs a successful resale store, Berry Good Buys.

For more information on how you can help, visit our website at [www.safehaventc.org](http://www.safehaventc.org) or call 817 535-6462.

For immediate assistance regarding domestic violence, please contact the 24 hour toll free crisis hotline at 1-877-701- SAFE (7233).