



WOMEN IN TRANSITION

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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Top Folk Artists Come Together in Concert
To Celebrate Survivors of Domestic Violence**

Philadelphia –

Women In Transition and Broad Street Ministry present **Celebrating Survivors: A Concert to Honor Survivors of Domestic Violence** on **October 17, 2008 at 7:30pm**. A powerful night of celebration and survival, this concert features some of the nation's top touring folk artists, including SONiA of disappear fear; John Flynn; LisaBeth Weber & Maggie Marshall; Cheryl Prashker. All proceeds go to fund Women In Transition's ongoing mission to end domestic violence and substance abuse. Women in Transition, a thirty-seven year old Philadelphia-based non-profit, was chosen as a 2008 Cartier Love Charity of Choice by hip-hop artist EVE.

Tickets are **only \$20** and can be **purchased online at <http://www.helpwomen.org>; by calling 215-564-5301 x125**; or at the door. The concert is located at Broad Street Ministry, 315 S. Broad Street between Pine and Spruce Streets directly across from the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

SONiA of disappear fear

SONiA continually strives to “disappear fear” and spread her message of peace, whether in **miklats (bomb shelters) in Israel, summer camps in Palestine**, Human Rights Events, colleges, festivals or venues around the world. She spells her name with a small “i” to remind herself of her place in the world. Moving through “different beats, whether it’s a hip-hop thing, a Latin thing or something else,” she refers to her style as Americana dance music. Sisters **SONiA & CiNDY [Rutstein]** created the Folk-Pop duo, disappear fear in 1987, a name originally conceived for a Baltimore rape crisis center at which SONiA worked. SONiA also has written several soundtracks for films; does commissioned artwork, including paintings and large murals; is currently composing a musical for a 2009 release; as well as a Blues CD. In keeping with her message of global harmony **SONiA** has created “Guitars for Peace” which helps bring Acoustic Guitars to children in war-torn countries. In addition, her label disappear records donates 18% of every song downloaded to the **United Nations World Food Program** to help end poverty around the globe. Press photos and more information about **SONiA** can be found at <http://disappearfear.com/home.html>.

John Flynn

Songwriter and activist **John Flynn** calls himself a “hopeful pessimist.” The pessimism comes from a clear-eyed assessment of the world we live in; the hope comes from a deep-rooted faith in the beauty and resilience of the human spirit. After establishing himself as a songwriter in the heart of the Nashville Music Row, John returned to his native Philadelphia where a mainstage appearance at the **Philadelphia Folk Festival** cemented his career. Awards and recognitions include the **American Library Association’s Notable Recording Award**; songs for *Tiny Tears*, a documentary premiered at the **United Nations** and screened at **The Cannes Film Festival**; and an appearance at

the first 2007 National League Eastern Division Playoff game. He volunteers with a men's discussion group in a maximum security prison and is a devoted supporter of Camp Dreamcatcher, an organization that provides a safe haven for children living with HIV/AIDS. Press photos and more information about **John Flynn** can be found at <http://www.myspace.com/johnflynnfolksinger>.

LisaBeth Weber & Maggie Marshall

LisaBeth Weber's mission is to make a difference through her art, music, and writing. **Maggie Marshall**, her "best friend and singing partner," brings high lonesome harmony and stellar upright bass playing to the duo. LisaBeth was a solo artist for many years playing around the Philadelphia region and received national airplay with two of her songs on **NPR's Cartalk** before she and Maggie began performing together seven years ago. Besides Maggie's roots influence, LisaBeth credits the movie, "**O Brother, Where Art Thou?**" for taking her song-writing style in an "old-timey" direction. The consummate Renaissance woman, LisaBeth is also a freelance writer and artist, **recognized nationally for her efforts in spreading awareness of crucial matters in social justice, cancer prevention, women's issues, politics, and the environment.** Press photos and more information about **LisaBeth Weber & Maggie Marshall** can be found at <http://www.myspace.com/lisabethandmaggie>.

Cheryl Prashker

Cheryl Prashker is often described within the folk music community as "percussionist extraordinaire" and a better description couldn't be found. She's toured with Jonathan Edwards, Pat Wictor, Red Molly, and Ellis; recorded with **Wictor, Zoë Mulford, and Charlie Zahm**; and has jumped in to play with countless performers passing through the Northeast area including **Peter Yarrow, Tracy Grammar**, and many others. She's been part of the bands CC Railroad, Full Frontal Folk, So's Your Mom, Whiskey Run, Earth Radio, and, currently, The Strangelings. Her genres are as diverse as her performance experiences including klezmer, classical, Sousa, jazz, Middle Eastern and folk. Now living in Philadelphia with husband (and frequent collaborator) Charles Nolan, Cheryl is **one of the most sought after studio and touring musicians in the Northeast.** She is also a teacher, songwriter, sound engineer, and record producer. Press photos and more information about **Cheryl Prashker** can be found at <http://www.cherylprashker.com>.

Other Events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month include:

Health Cares about Domestic Violence on October 8th

On Wednesday, October 8th, Women In Transition will hold a community health fair at two city health centers with information about our programs. Women In Transition will provide an onsite safe place for women needing to talk to counselors about domestic violence. Counselors available from 10:30am to 2pm.

Locations: Philadelphia Health Center #2, 1720 S. Broad Street (at Broad and Castle)

Strawberry Mansion Health Center, 2480 W. Dauphin Street

Clothesline Project Gets Repeat Performance on October 17th-19th

Women In Transition will display its eleven-year-old Clothesline Project at The Sanctuary October 17-19, 2008 as a part of a multi-genre performance designed to educate the community about domestic violence. The work, "Terror is... Um..." was previously seen at the Sanctuary in August and the response was tremendous. Davina' Stewart, a spoken-word performance artist, seeks to demonstrate the realities of domestic violence through a child's perspective, the hour-long work uses different spaces within The Sanctuary to represent the different rooms in a house. In her preparation for the performances, Stewart sought training from Women In Transition to learn about abuse cycles, entrapment and propagation of violence. Call the Sanctuary for more details at (267) 456-7432. The Sanctuary, a wellness center, is located at 2737 Cambridge Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130.

Ten Thousand Villages at Walnut Community Shopping Day on October 24th from 4 to 8pm

Long-time supporters of Women In Transition, **Ten Thousand Villages** at **1122 Walnut Street** will **donate 15% of sales** to **Women In Transition** on **October 24th** from 4 to 8pm. A great time to do early holiday shopping or buy other gifts, Ten Thousand Villages specializes in international artisan goods ranging from craftsman arts to furniture pieces.

For more information regarding October events, visit <http://www.helpwomen.org>.

About Women In Transition

Since 1971, [Women In Transition](#) has empowered women who are endangered by domestic violence and/or substance abuse to make positive changes in their lives, to eliminate vulnerability to abusive relationships and to build abuse-free lives for themselves and their children.

Active in [community outreach](#), **Women In Transition** also conducts general education about the linkages between domestic violence, substance abuse, child abuse and community violence in an effort to establish safety and justice for vulnerable women and children.

Women In Transition also provides [early intervention and prevention services](#) that include telephone counseling, information and referral services, individual and group empowerment counseling, self-defense and advocacy for women who are endangered by domestic violence and substance abuse. These interrelated direct services strive to empower women to make positive changes in their lives and live free of poverty, violence and addictions to alcohol/ drugs.

All services are provided free, without regard to race; gender; age; marital, social or economic status; cultural or religious practices; sexual orientation; political beliefs; or physical abilities.

WHAT: Top Folk Artists Come Together to Celebrate Survivors of Domestic Violence

WHO: SONiA of disappear fear; John Flynn; LisaBeth Weber & Maggie Marshall; Cheryl Prashker

WHEN: **October 17, 2008 at 7:30pm**

WHERE: 315 South Broad Street at Broad Street Ministry

(located between Pine and Spruce Streets, across from the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts)

TICKETS: Purchased **at the door**; online at <http://www.helpwomen.org>; or by calling **215-564-5301 x125**.

PRESENTED BY: Women In Transition and Broad Street Ministry

GRAPHICS:

Women In Transition Logo 769x537 Pink (JPG): <http://www.helpwomen.org/PinkLLEmpowerLogo.jpg>

Women In Transition Logo 775x537 B&W (JPG): <http://www.helpwomen.org/BlackLLEmpowerLogo.jpg>

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Not the right media contact? Please email **Janelle McCoy** at jmccoy@womenintransitioninc.org with appropriate media contact information.