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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Domestic Violence Survivors' Arts Project Highlighted in Multi-Genre Performance

Philadelphia– Surviving domestic violence is no small matter. Having the courage to seek help is even more difficult, which is why Women In Transition, a 37-year-old non-profit that fights domestic violence and substance abuse, continues to find innovative ways to reach out to women. This weekend Women In Transition displays its eleven-year-old Clothesline Project at The Sanctuary as a part of a multi-genre performance designed to educate the community about domestic violence.

About the Clothesline Project

Inspired by a survivors' group in Cape Cod, Women in Transition hung its first "Clothesline" in 1997 as a part of its 25th anniversary. Eleven years later, creating t-shirts for the Clothesline is considered a rite of passage among women that have graduated to "Survivors" - an advanced support group designed to prepare women for independent work and action. Each group member designs a t-shirt to illustrate her own journey from victim to survivor of domestic violence. The t-shirts have become badges of progress for their creators and signs of hope for domestic violence victims. They will be displayed as a part of this weekend's performances.

About the Artist

Davina' Stewart, a spoken-word performance artist, created the multi-genre work "Terror Is..." which will feature the Clothesline Project. Seeking 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. "I wanted to convey how domestic violence permeates an environment. Violence occurs regardless of ethnicity, class lines, or sexual orientation. No group is excluded," explains Stewart, a 2006 Leeway Foundation Transformation Award recipient for her work targeting social change. In her preparation for the performances, Stewart sought training from Women In Transition to learn about abuse cycles, entrapment and propagation of violence.

Partial proceeds from the event go to underwrite costs of the Women In Transition Lifeline, a hotline for victims of domestic violence and substance abuse, in addition to other members of the Pennsylvania Domestic Violence Coalition.

About Women In Transition

Women In Transition was named the charity of choice by hip-hop artist Eve for the 2008 Cartier Love Charity campaign. 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.



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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.

In addition to community education, Women In Transition 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.

About The Sanctuary

The Sanctuary, a wellness center in North Philadelphia, uses the arts as a tool for therapy. The Sanctuary's Director, Charlyn Griffith has been an active participant in community organizing efforts surrounding child sexual abuse and its relationship to domestic violence.

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Event: Domestic Violence Survivors' Arts Project Featured in Multi-Genre Performance

Performances: August 15, 16, 17, 2008

Times: Friday at 7:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday at 1:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30p

Place: The Sanctuary, 2737 Cambridge Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130

For Event Info: Call (267) 456-7432

Tickets: \$15 in advance and \$20 at box office - Call (267) 456-7432

Doors open 20 minutes prior to the event.

Clothesline Logo 112X208 (GIF) B&W: http://womenintransitioninc.org/gif/clp_small.gif

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>

Image of Clothesline Project Displayed 300x201(JPG): <http://womenintransitioninc.org/gif/tshirts.jpg>

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Women In Transition

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