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WOMEN IN DISTRESS HONORS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH Local Events Scheduled Throughout the Month of October

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Every seven seconds a woman is being battered by her partner. One in three women and one in four men will experience violence from an intimate partner at some point in their lives. Across the country, 12 million children are exposed to violence at home and the effects last a lifetime. That's why putting a focus on domestic violence during the month of October is so important to families and children here in South Florida.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is a national effort to promote awareness and prevention of domestic violence in all its forms – from physical violence to cyber-stalking and bullying at school. Leading the effort locally is Women In Distress of Broward County, Inc. in collaboration with several organizations, including the Victims' Rights Coalition and the Broward Domestic Violence Council.

The centerpiece of Women In Distress's events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month is the annual Silent Witness Memorial Service, presented by Broward Victim's Rights Coalition, to honor those who have lost their lives to abuse this year. The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature presentations from community leaders, domestic violence survivors, family members and others who have been affected by abuse. The service includes an exhibit of life-sized red silhouettes each representing a woman, man, or child in Broward County who has lost their life as a result of intimate partner violence in the last year. The event will be held on October 8, 5:30 pm: Silent Witness Vigil at Long Key Nature Center in Davie. The cities in Broward County as well as the Broward County Commissioners will be delivering proclamations in recognition of DVAM (schedule is listed below).

"The events and activities during Domestic Violence Awareness Month provide focus on how broadly domestic violence affects not only one in three women and one in four men but also the teens and children who are changed in lifelong ways. The solutions to this widespread community issue begin with awareness and education," says Mary Riedel, President and CEO of Women In Distress, as she encourages supporters to take the first step in working towards ending domestic violence by attending DVAM events in October.

Additional events scheduled throughout the month include:

Community Awareness Events – Open to the Public

October 4, 6 pm: Screening of *Home Truth*, hosted by Broward Victim's Rights Coalition, David Posnack Jewish Community Center, 5850 South Pine Island Road, Davie **MEDIA INVITED**

October 8, 5:30 pm: Silent Witness Vigil, presented by Broward Victim's Rights Coalition, Long Key Nature Center, 3501 Southwest 130 Avenue, Davie **MEDIA INVITED**

October 13, 9 am: Free Fitness Class and Handbag Collection, hosted by In De Fete Fitness, Mrs. P's Dance Studio, 9631 West Sample Road, Coral Springs

October 26, 8:30 am – 2 pm: 26th Annual Training and Awards Luncheon with topic Domestic Violence 2.0, hosted by The Broward Domestic Violence Council, The Signature Grand, 6900 SR 84, Davie

CITY PROCLAMATIONS

City proclamations recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month will be issued throughout Broward County at Commission meetings during the month.

September 25, 7 pm: City of Lauderdale Lakes
September 27, 7 pm: Town of Southwest Ranches
October 2, 9 am: Town of Hillsboro Beach
October 3, 1 pm: City of Hollywood
October 3, 6 pm: City of Hallandale Beach
October 3, 6:30 pm: Town of Davie
October 3, 6:30 pm: Town of Pembroke Pines
October 3, 7 pm: City of Parkland
October 3, 7 pm: City of West Park
October 9, 5 pm: City of Sunrise
October 9, 5:15 pm: City of Lauderhill
October 9, 6 pm: City of North Lauderdale
October 9, 6:30 pm: Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
October 9, 6:30 pm: City of Lighthouse Point
October 9, 7 pm: City of Dania Beach
October 10, 7 pm: City of Tamarac
October 11, 7 pm: City of Coconut Creek
October 15, 7 pm: City of Weston
October 16, 7 pm: City of Deerfield Beach
October 17, 6:30 pm: City of Coral Springs
October 17, 7 pm: City of Margate
October 23, 10 am: Broward County Commissioners
October 23, 6 pm: City of Pompano Beach
October 23, 7 pm: City of Wilton Manors

Private Event (Closed to the public)

October 25: 2nd Annual Women's Empowerment Forum featuring keynote speaker Mary Mazzio. Call Cindy Bibliowicz at 954-760-9800 ext. 1236 for details. **MEDIA INVITED**

To schedule a media interview, please contact Cindy Bibliowicz at CBibliowicz@womenindistress.org or 954.760.9800 ext. 1236. For more information, please visit WomenInDistress.org.

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About Women In Distress

Women In Distress of Broward County, Inc. is the only state-certified and nationally accredited domestic violence center in Broward County. The agency's mission is to stop domestic violence abuse for everyone through intervention, education, and advocacy. If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please call the Women In Distress 24-Hour Crisis Line at 954-761-1133 or visit www.WomenInDistress.org.