



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOORWAYS FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES HOSTS 16th ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

Event to Raise Funds and Awareness for Area Victims of Domestic Violence and Homelessness

ARLINGTON, Va. - Doorways for Women and Families, formerly The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter (TACTS) and Arlington's only shelter for abused, homeless and at-risk women and their families, will hold its 16th Annual Benefit Auction on **Sunday, March 12, 2006 at The Ritz-Carlton in Pentagon City, Va., from 2 to 4:30 p.m.**

This year's benefit themed "Building Hope, Rebuilding Lives," will focus on raising awareness about domestic violence and homelessness affecting women and families in the Arlington community, and will celebrate the planned rebuilding of Doorways' Emergency Family Shelter, scheduled for completion in Spring 2007.

"Every year this event helps to raise critical funds for the care and support of abused women and their families in Northern Virginia," said Linda Dunphy, Executive Director of Doorways. "And we are most excited that our new shelter, when completed, will allow Doorways to more fully address the needs of our community."

ABC 7 news broadcaster Maureen Bunyan will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event, which draws a diverse crowd of more than 400 community residents, vendors, business leaders and volunteers. During the event, Doorways will present their annual corporate Unsung Hero Award. This year's winner is NVHomes, builders of single family homes, townhomes and villas throughout the Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Philadelphia areas. NVHomes has pledged \$400,000 in materials and labor to Doorways for the Emergency Family Shelter rebuilding effort.

The benefit will also include speeches by Doorways' clients and supporters, and a live and silent auction featuring 100 items from retailers and organizations such as Coach, L'Occitane, Sony Style, Sephora, Washington Performing Arts Society, and golf and spa packages.

Doorways for Women and Families, formerly The Arlington Temporary Shelter (TACTS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that empowers women and families who are abused, homeless or at-risk to live safe, secure and self-sufficient lives. For over 25 years, Doorways has provided shelter and services and educated the larger community about violence and homelessness. Doorways for Women and Families can be found on the Web at www.doorwaysva.org.

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**For more information or to interview Linda Dunphy, Executive Director of Doorways, please contact
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