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DOORWAYS FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES LAUNCHES FIRST COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Weekly Group to Provide On-Site Support and Assistance to Community Domestic Violence Survivors

Arlington, Va. — Doorways for Women and Families, Arlington's only safehouse shelter for victims of domestic violence, today announced the launch of a confidential Domestic Violence Community Support Group, a weekly meeting for those locally who are either domestic abuse survivors or are in need of guidance to leave a threatening situation. The group, which will meet every Tuesday evening, is designed to support survivors to make healthy choices and as an entry point for women who may need legal advice, protection orders, or other assistance.

The Domestic Violence Support Group is just one of many services Doorways, formerly TACTS, The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter, provides for homeless women and families. Prior to Doorways' founding 25 years ago, the only shelter for battered or homeless women and their children in Arlington was a night in a motel. Since then, Doorways has evolved to provide a continuum of services to aid women and families in crisis. One out of every four women has experienced abuse at some point in her life, creating a need for the Domestic Community Support Group.

"Our goal with confidential Support Group is to provide a safe place for women in crisis," said **Linda Dunphy, Executive Director of Doorways**. "Women seeking assistance are either referred or to come us individually. Once they come forward, we can help women get the assistance and support they need for a better future."

The Support Group is open to those domestic violence survivors in the community and current domestic violence clients. The group provides a means to reach out to women who may not be ready to leave an abusive situation but may need guidance and support. Women participate in open discussions about how they can move forward with their lives. Children are welcome to attend as free childcare is provided.

Through The Domestic Community Support Group, vulnerable women and women in transition will be provided with supportive services and a core group of caring individuals that will be able to guide them towards a better future.

For more information about the support group or confidential location, please call 703.237.0881

To request an interview with Linda Dunphy, Executive Director or Vicki Price, Safehouse Director, please contact Lauren Lawson at 202.360.2406 or Sarah Wayne at 703.585.4607

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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 was selected as a featured charity in the 2005 issue of *The Catalogue of Philanthropy* and is the winner of the 2006 James B. Hunter Community Hero Award and the 2005 James P. Hunter Human Rights Award. Doorways is the 2006-2008 nonprofit pro-bono client for Washington Women in PR (WWPR). Doorways for Women and Families can be found on the Web at www.doorwaysVA.org.