



Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FIFTH ANNUAL HIGHMARK SHOP TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S CENTER & SHELTER**

PITTSBURGH – October 19, 2007 – How can I help? What can I do to make a difference? The question is asked all the time when it comes to the topic of domestic violence. The Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh has one very easy answer.

You can help made a difference with victims of domestic violence by attending the Fifth Annual Highmark Shop to Stop Domestic Violence FUNdraiser benefiting the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, on Sunday, November 4, 2007 at The Galleria of Mt. Lebanon, from 6 – 9:30 p.m.

Guests will be treated to generous store discounts by Galleria Merchants, a live performance by B.E. Taylor, complimentary food and beverages courtesy of Galleria restaurants, complimentary wine tasting and a Chinese and silent auction. Local celebrities including; Sally Wiggin, Kelly Frey, and Andrew Stockey, from WTAE-TV; Keith Jones and Mary Robb Jackson, from KDKA-TV; Newlin Archinal, from WPXI-TV; Tall Cathy from WKST; Beth Bershock from WLTV and former Penguin, Peter Taglianetti, will participate in a strolling fashion show.

“By just buying one ticket for this event, allows us to house, clothe, feed and comfort a woman or child who has experienced something no one should ever have to experience in their life,” stated WC&S Executive Director, Shirl Regan.

For more than three decades WCS has been offering a safe haven for women and children who are victims of intimate partner violence. As one of the first six shelters of its kind in the United States, WC&S has worked tirelessly to provide first rate care for women and children by providing support, advocacy and information to allow them to make informed decisions for themselves and their children.

The statistics are daunting. From July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, WC&S has:

- Answered 5,000 domestic violence-related calls
- Had 590 women and children spend 9, 104 nights in shelter
- Offered over 2,964 hours of counseling to 611 adult victims in our Counseling Center
- Provided 5,447.75 hours of legal advocacy to 2,901 victims
- Counseled 70 children with over 463 hours of individual and group counseling through the Children's Counseling Center

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Special events like Shop to Stop Domestic Violence help raise the money needed for WC&S to provide its services free of charge including:

- 24-hour hotline (412-687-8005)
- Emergency shelter
- Legal and medical advocacy
- Counseling
- Prevention education

WC&S provides high quality, confidential programs offered in an environment where justice, autonomy, restoration and safety are the priorities. These services can be offered thanks to donations from the general public, foundations, and corporate partners such as our Naming Corporate Sponsor for Shop to Stop, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

"Highmark is proud to support the Women's Center and Shelter's efforts to combat domestic violence and the fifth annual Shop to Stop event", said Aaron Walton, Highmark's senior vice president of corporate affairs. "The services provided by the agency allow women in our community to free themselves from the dangers of domestic violence enhance the safety of their family and ultimately help them live longer, healthier lives."

Reservations for the Highmark Shop to Stop Domestic Violence FUNdraiser can be made by visiting www.wcpittsburgh.org or by calling **412-687-8017, ext. 338**. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Blocks of 10 tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate of \$450.

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Members of the news media can arrange for an interview, or attend the event by calling 412-687-8017, ext 338 or by e-mail at mercuriom@wcpittsburgh.org.

