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Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center's Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence Steps off on October 14th During Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Fundraiser enables Center to provide services free of charge to local-area domestic violence abuse survivors and their families

NEWBURYPORT, Mass., September 10, 2017 – The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is hosting its annual Walk Against Domestic Violence on Sunday, October 14th at Waterfront Park, 1 Market Square, Newburyport, located behind the Firehouse Theater. Registration for this essential fundraiser event opens at 8 am and the 3-mile scenic walk begins at 9 am.

“We are thrilled to be holding our 27th Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence. This walk is of critical importance as it helps the Center provide a 24-hour crisis hotline, legal assistance, emergency and transitional housing, counseling and support. Last year, we provided free legal, advocacy, and clinical help to 1,333 survivors of domestic violence. We also worked with 1,761 young people in the schools to educate, raise awareness, and help young people build the skills they need to navigate intense feelings and new relationships,” said Suzanne Dubus, chief executive officer, Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. “Our operating budget is \$3 million, 51% of funding is derived from state and federal contracts, 24% from generous individuals and corporations, 17% from program services and 8% from private foundation grants. We are grateful for your support and could not do this work without it.”

The annual Walk is one of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center's largest fundraisers of the year. Proceeds from this event allow the center to continue to provide an extensive array of programs and services to 15 local communities such as:

- 24-hour emergency hotline
- Crisis counseling for adults and children
- Art therapy
- Court advocacy
- Legal representation
- Emergency and transitional housing
- Homicide reduction

The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center also offers Youth Empowerment Services (YES) focused on educating and empowering youth to include: bystander education in area high schools and middle schools, a complement to our well-established Healthy Relationships and Teen Dating Violence Workshops and Girls Inc. of the Seacoast Area programs that inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold.

Registration for the walk is \$35, which includes a free walk t-shirt. Participants are encouraged to register online at jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org and track pledges on a personalized fundraising page. Participants of all ages are welcome. Team prizes will be awarded to those who have raised the most funds.

Thank you to our early bird sponsors; **Presenting Sponsor:** The Institution for Savings; **Stepping Up Sponsors:** The Leeward Light Charitable Foundation, Matter Communications, Newburyport Five Cents Savings; **Stride Right Sponsors:** Hero Coatings, Strem Chemicals; **Foot Soldier Sponsors:** Circle Finishing, Earl G. Morrill, Electrical Contractor Inc., Newburyport Lions Club, Peter and Patty Hoyt, and Zar-Tech. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the walk, please also visit jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org.

Domestic Violence Awareness

October is national Domestic Violence Awareness Month and is a chance for everyone – victims, survivors, advocates, law enforcement, supporters and political leaders – to unite in our work to end abuse. Throughout October, communities across the country will celebrate the tremendous progress victim advocates have made over the years, mourn for those whose lives were taken by domestic violence and connect with one another with a true sense of unity to end domestic violence.

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive, controlling and violent behavior toward a partner in an intimate relationship. The behavior can take many forms from verbal abuse to threats, isolation from family and friends, intimidation, financial control, sexual or physical violence, damaging property or threatening to harm the victim's family, pets or, even, themselves. This can happen on a regular basis, or only on occasion.

About the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center

For 36 years, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has been helping individuals and families at risk because of domestic violence. What began as the compassionate mission of several volunteer parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newburyport in 1982 has grown into a nationally recognized nonprofit organization serving adult and child victims/survivors of domestic violence from Newbury to Lawrence. The mission of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is to empower individuals and engage communities to end domestic violence. For more information, call 978-465-0999, visit www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org or call the 24-hour confidential crisis hotline at 978-388-1888.

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