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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Night of Fashion and Compassion to benefit A Safe Place

Inaugural Wine Women & Shoes event raises money to support domestic violence families

LAKE COUNTY, IL – “Change your shoes. Change a life.” On Saturday, May 6, more than 300 ladies slipped into chic cocktail dresses and stepped out in stylish shoes for an exciting evening of shopping, wine, and fashion at Ravinia Festival in Highland Park to support lifesaving services for survivors and children of domestic violence.

It was a dazzling evening, from the trendy multi-designer Marketplace of shoes, jewelry, and handbags, sip-sational wine tasting by seven vintners, a sophisticated fashion show presented by Lake Forest designer Ave SanJuan, and a silent and live auction featuring lavish trips and experiences, it was a night to remember. A night where friends, colleagues, daughters, mothers, and grandmothers from around the Chicagoland area gathered to raise over \$147,000 to benefit A Safe Place.

A Safe Place is the sole provider of services exclusively focusing on domestic violence victims in Lake County, Illinois. Through multi-faceted programs, A Safe Place assists victims and their children in transforming their lives after domestic violence, prevents future abuse by addressing its root cause through abuser intervention programs, and educates the community about domestic violence and how we can all be involved in its end. Last year, A Safe Place served over 13,000 community members.

“We are honored and humbled by the overwhelming support for our inaugural Wine Women & Shoes event,” said Pat Davenport, Executive Director of A Safe Place. “It is exciting to see women of all generations join together to help eliminate domestic violence in our communities.”

“For the past 38 years, A Safe Place has been there for those seeking help in the wake of domestic violence,” said Kathryn Johnson, President of the Board of Directors for A Safe Place. “I am thrilled that this event was able to raise the funds needed to continue our mission and service to our most fragile neighbors.”

During the presentation, Davenport announced that one in three women in the country are the victims of serious physical violence at the hands of intimate partners and then asked everyone to stand if they knew someone who had been the victim of domestic violence or if they, themselves, had been the victim of domestic violence.

The evening was also highlighted by the incredible volunteer “Shoe Guys,” who represented A Safe Place by raising funds in the community before the event. During the event, the “Shoe Guys” showed off the latest fashions on silver platters and strutted their stuff on the catwalk. In addition, three fashionistas were awarded Best in Shoe for the most Powerful Pumps, Fearless Flats, and Warrior Wedges of the evening.

“Brave is Beautiful” was the theme of the night and the stunning fashion show began with a trail of models wearing handmade “Brave is Beautiful” shirts before changing into fun, original spring and summer fashions. The “Brave is Beautiful” shirts will be sold on avesanjuan.com and all proceeds donated to A Safe Place.

This event comes at a time when domestic violence funding from the State of Illinois was eliminated, threatening the foundation of all programs and services, from the emergency shelter and court advocacy to counseling and life skills. Last year, over 500 individuals were turned away due to lack of funding. Donations from new funding sources are needed now more than ever.

Generous sponsors of the event included Discover; Mercedes Benz Autohaus; Cycle Logistics; Silver Tree Communications; Rustoleum; Intren; Lake County Vein Specialists; Waukegan Police Department; TRW; and Volkswagen Credit.

“Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and guests for making this first event a great success,” said Davenport. “With your help, lives are transformed and saved.”

Mark your calendar for next year’s not-to-be-missed social event of the year.

Photo 1:
Designer marketplace and wine tasting at Wine Women & Shoes.



Photo 2:
The Wine Women & Shoes Shoe Guys strut their stuff on the catwalk.



Photo 3:
A Safe Place presents domestic violence statistics in Lake County and the United States.

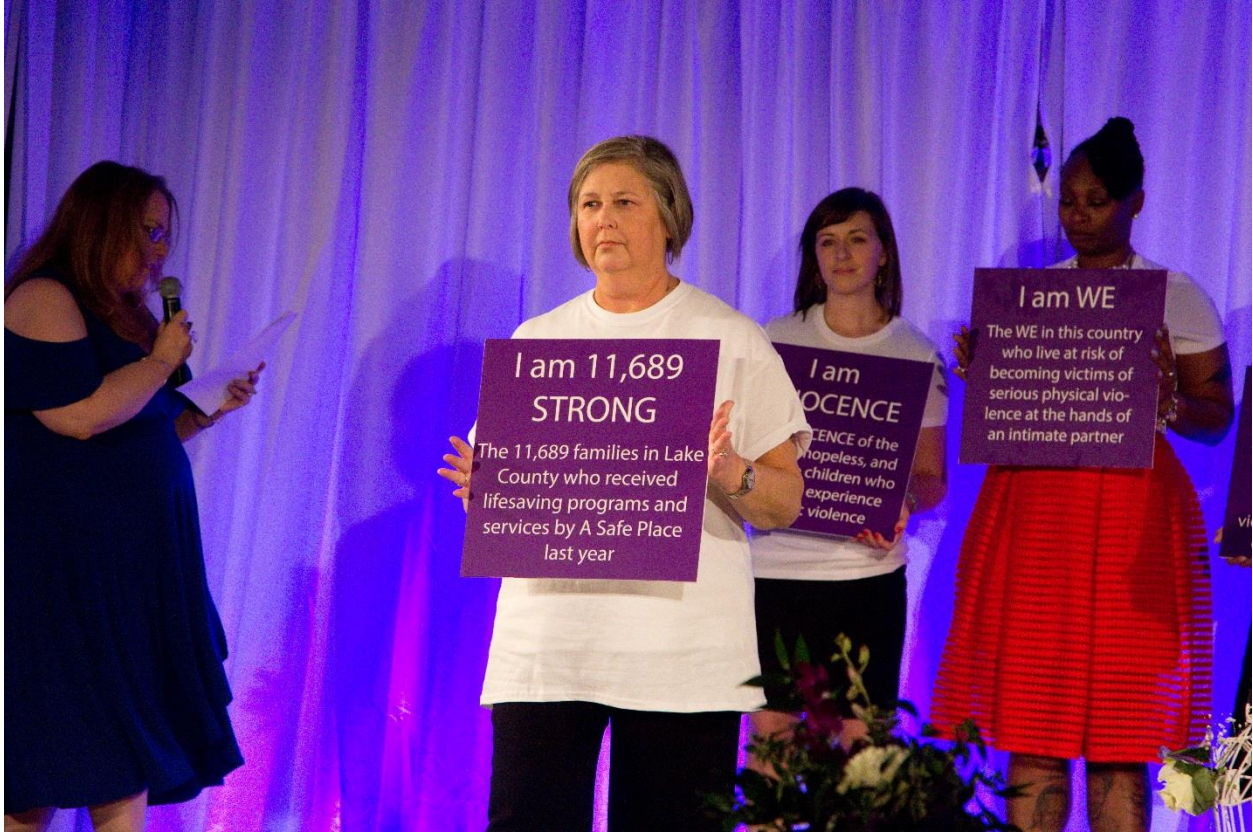


Photo 4:
Ave SanJuan designs showcases one-of-a-kind Brave is Beautiful shirts made exclusively for A Safe Place.



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Founded in 1978, A Safe Place is the leading advocate for eliminating domestic violence in northern Illinois, and is Lake County, Illinois' only provider of services exclusively for victims of domestic violence. A Safe Place provides emergency shelter, permanent housing, a 24-hour crisis line (847-249-4450), court and non-legal advocacy, individual, group, and children's counseling, art therapy, family visitation services, batterer intervention services; and community outreach, prevention education, and professional training. Our service area includes Lake, McHenry, and northern Cook counties in Illinois; however, our clients come to us from across the state, region, and country.

For more information about A Safe Place, visit www.asafeplaceforhelp.org, [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).