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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Empowered Voices Will Be Heard on October 6

A Safe Place Celebrates Their 40th Anniversary Year at the Unmask the Violence Gala

LAKE COUNTY, IL – On October 6, more than 300 supporters will come together at the Chicago Marriott Lincolnshire Resort to celebrate and sustain the programs and services that have helped victims and children of domestic violence for 40 years in Lake County and the Chicagoland area.

The A Safe Place 9th annual Unmask the Violence: Empowered Voices Gala highlights the strength and courage of families of abuse and raises money to support the numerous programs and services at A Safe Place for victims of both genders, from all walks of life, and in all stages of relationships.

Held at the newly renovated Chicago Marriott Lincolnshire Resort, the Gala will be an incredible experience that includes fine wine, good food, live music, and a moving art exhibit by domestic violence survivors, in addition to a spectacular live and silent auction with one-of-a-kind items, wine and trip raffles, and our fast-moving Dash contest.

“Even though this is our 40th year as an agency, we have always been told that we are the best kept secret in Lake County,” said A Safe Place CEO, Pat Davenport. “So, there is no better time than now to boisterously celebrate the enormous impact that our funders, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and staff have had in transforming lives for the last 40 years.”

This year's keynote speaker is Pastor Neil Schori of the Edge Church in Aurora, who will share his emotional story about how he counseled Stacie Peterson, wife of Drew Peterson, just months before her disappearance, over ten years ago.

2018 honorees include The Honorable Veronica M. O'Malley of the 19th Judicial Circuit Court and Annick Deubler of the Hermitage Foundation for their leadership and dedication to advancing awareness about domestic violence and advocating for victims of domestic violence everywhere.

The Unmask the Violence Gala is the largest and most important fundraiser of the year for A Safe Place, Lake County's sole provider of services exclusively addressing domestic violence. All proceeds support the organization's lifesaving programs and services for victims of domestic violence and their children, including crisis support, housing, legal advocacy, counseling, human trafficking assistance, community outreach, and education to prevent future abuse.

Sponsors for the Gala include Michael and Andrea Rosengarden, Abbvie, AON, The Honorable Melinda Bush, Nancy and Marvin Himmelstein, IRON HORSE Seating, Libertyville Bank & Trust, Northwestern Medicine, Palmer Consulting Group, Ernie and Dawn Rogers, Rust-Oleum, and Schlesinger & Strauss LLC.

"Sponsors help make special events like this happen," said Carmen Patlan, Chief Development Officer of A Safe Place. "Because of their support, we are able to direct more resources toward lifesaving services. We are incredibly thankful for the participation of our sponsors, for an evening of awareness and empowerment."

"This will be a fun and memorable evening that will leave supporters feeling more connected to our agency, our mission, and armed with information on how they can help eliminate domestic violence in our communities. We hope you can join us." said Patlan.

For more information, visit the Unmask the Violence Gala website at www.asafeplaceforhelp.org/unmask-violence-gala to purchase tickets, tables, or become a sponsor.

Photo 1:

This year's Keynote Speaker, Pastor Neil Schori, of the Edge Church in Aurora.



Photo 2:

This is the 9th year for the A Safe Place Unmask the Violence Gala.



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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](#).