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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lake County State's Attorney Presents Award Honoring Inclusive Initiatives

A Safe Place CEO Pat Davenport recognized at April 10 event

LAKE COUNTY, IL – During the recent National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Lake County State's Attorney Michael Nerheim presented an award to A Safe Place Chief Executive Officer Pat Davenport in honor of the agency's new inclusive crime fighting initiatives and efforts to improve the lives of all victims of crime and residents of Lake County.

"Pat has been a dynamic voice for victims of domestic abuse in Lake County", said Nerheim. "Through her leadership, A Safe Place has continued to be a leader in support, prevention, and community outreach, and has also expanded to meet the needs of our community by tackling issues like human trafficking and promoting the importance of inclusiveness."

Three recent A Safe Place initiatives, led by Davenport, include Crisis Response Services, which works with local law enforcement to respond to police domestic calls immediately after violent incidents; a human trafficking program that helps victims by assisting them with immediate needs and with safely exiting human trafficking situations; and the new "Safer Youth Safer Lake County" initiative, a violence prevention education and case management program for junior and high school students in Waukegan.

"As one of the founding members of The Partnership for a Safer Lake County, A Safe Place is dedicated to making sure all residents of Lake County can live safe and healthy," said Davenport. "Just last year, A Safe Place served over 14,000 individuals throughout the county, which not only includes the parents and children that need and use our domestic violence and human trafficking services, but also the

students who need bilingual lessons on healthy relationships and the at-risk and gang-involved youth in our communities who need positive support and encouragement. who and community members that participate in our training and outreach events to learn more about ending violence.”

The Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office hosted this free event, called “Creating a More Inclusive Lake County” at the Holiday Inn Gurnee which included a viewing of the 2016 Oscar winning short film “Sing” along with a discussion and break out sessions. Nerheim, Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor, and Davenport led the discussions, which focused on inclusion, fighting oppression, and historically marginalized groups.

“By making Lake County more inclusive for everyone, we improve the lives of crime victims and all residents of Lake County,” said Nerheim.

As Lake County’s only provider of services solely dedicated to domestic violence, A Safe Place has always put victims first, no matter who they are or where they come from. A Safe Place offers a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, affordable housing, court advocacy, supervised and monitored family visitations, and individual and group therapy. They also provide educational programs for the community and intervention services for abusers to learn accountability for their choices and actions. To learn more, visit www.asafeplaceforhelp.org.

Photo 1:

Pat Davenport and Michael Nerheim.



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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](#).