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Moran Challenge Grant Announced for Women In Distress Expansion

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (December 17, 2009) — Jan Moran, philanthropist and advocate for issues affecting children and families, today announced a special Moran Challenge Grant of \$500,000 to assist with the Project Safe Place expansion campaign of Women In Distress of Broward County, Inc. (WID) for the new Jim and Jan Moran Family Center campus that will be located in Deerfield Beach.

Jan Moran will match all new contributions to the capital expansion campaign, pledging a dollar for every three dollars in new contributions, up to \$500,000, from now until the end of 2010.

Longtime supporters of Women In Distress, Jan together with her late husband Jim, provided the lead gift in 1995 when the agency opened the current Jim and Jan Moran Family Center in Fort Lauderdale. For more than 20 years, they have supported programs aimed at helping adults and children who are victims of domestic abuse.

“When we first donated to WID’s Capital Campaign almost 15 years ago, I remember Jim saying how pleased he was we were able to offer support to Women In Distress and encouraged others to join us,” said Jan Moran. “I know he would feel the same way today with the Challenge as a continuation of our support for the agency’s mission to stop domestic violence and their work to help families affected by this tragic problem. This is my ongoing commitment to what was so important to Jim and me – improving the quality of life for families.”

Earlier this year, the agency announced plans to expand to a new Jim and Jan Moran Center in Deerfield Beach. The Project Safe Place campaign seeks to raise a total of \$5 million; approximately \$1.6 million has been raised to date. Renovation is currently underway on the six-acre site that includes five buildings. When completed in the spring of 2010, the

new Jim and Jan Moran Family Center will allow the agency to better meet community demand for services and increase the number of emergency shelter beds from the current 62 to 100.

“On behalf of all of us at Women In Distress, and especially for the families and children who we serve, this is a milestone gift for our agency,” said Mary Riedel, president and CEO of WID. “It provides the momentum to complete our expansion and positions us to better meet the pressing needs in our community.”

“This generous gift from Jan Moran and her vision in establishing the Moran Challenge will make the dream of a new campus with expanded services and safety for more families to come alive in new and better ways.”

In addition to its headquarters and shelter operations, Women In Distress provides services at outreach centers in various areas of Broward County, including Fort Lauderdale, Hallandale, Plantation, Coconut Creek and Pompano. It also has a thrift store located at 1372 N. State Road 7 in Margate. These will continue at their current locations. Three buildings owned by the agency are up for sale.

Women In Distress, founded in 1974, is the only fully certified domestic violence center serving all of Broward County. Currently, it provides counseling, outreach, education and advocacy programs; operates a 62-bed emergency shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse; and provides a 24-hour crisis line. All services are free and open to all who are victims of domestic violence.

For more information, contact WID president and CEO Mary Riedel at 954-760-9822 or mriedel@womenindistress.org.

Women In Distress is the only nationally accredited, state-certified, full service domestic violence center serving Broward County. Their mission is to provide victims of domestic violence with safe shelter, crisis intervention and resources, and to educate the community in order to Stop Abuse For Everyone (SAFE) through Intervention, Education and Advocacy. For more information on Women In Distress of Broward County or to make a donation, please visit our web site: www.womenindistress.org.

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