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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **WOMEN IN DISTRESS OF BROWARD COUNTY UNITES MEN TO HELP PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE FOR FAMILIES**

*100 MEN Initiative is underway with first 25 founders*

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (May 26, 2010)** — Women In Distress of Broward County, Inc. (WID), the only nationally accredited, state-certified, full service domestic violence center serving Broward County, is directly engaging men to participate in their premier 100 MEN Initiative, a collective effort to raise awareness and collect \$100,000 or more to sponsor 100 shelter beds and provide families affected by domestic violence a safer place to rest.

The 100 MEN Initiative is part of the Women In Distress Project SAFE Place Capital Campaign. The goal is for at least 100 men to make a one-time donation of \$1,000 to sponsor the 100 beds at WID's new Jim and Jan Moran Family Center, ultimately helping WID raise \$100,000 or more towards the Project SAFE Place Capital Campaign.

"This is a wonderful and unique opportunity to involve men in our community," said Mary Riedel, president and CEO of Women In Distress. "Men can make a real difference on behalf of mothers, sisters, wives and children; and possibly in honor of their fathers, brothers, or friends, in providing families affected by domestic violence a safe place as they rebuild their lives at Women In Distress."

Last year, the agency announced plans to expand to a new Jim and Jan Moran Family Center in Deerfield Beach. The Project Safe Place Capital Campaign seeks to raise a total of \$5 million, with over \$1.7 million already raised to date. Renovation is currently underway on the six-acre site, which includes five buildings. When complete, the new Jim and Jan Moran Family Center will allow the agency to better meet the demand for services and increase the number of emergency shelter beds from the current 62 to 100 initially, with additional capacity for up to 132 beds.

Donations this year to the Project SAFE Place Capital Campaign and the 100 MEN Initiative will be eligible for the Moran Challenge Grant – for every three dollars donated, an additional dollar will be given personally by Jan Moran, up to \$500,000.

"After learning more about the mission and therefore the importance of Women In Distress, I just couldn't turn my head and walk away from doing all I can to help families affected by domestic violence," said Bill Mahoney of Mahoney & Associates, also the first donor of the 100 MEN Initiative. "I'm proud to add my name to the list of those supporting this great organization."

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**100 Man Initiative**

On Thurs., June 17, Bill Mahoney and other Founding Circle members will hold a launch event to raise awareness for the 100 MEN Initiative, hosted and sponsored by The Galleria at Fort Lauderdale and Truluck's Fort Lauderdale.

For more information about how you can become a member of the 100 MEN Initiative or to learn more about Women In Distress, contact WID Associate Director of Development, Lauren Frank at 954-332-4753 or [lfrank@womenindistress.org](mailto:lfrank@womenindistress.org).

**About Women in Distress**

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, Inc. or to make a donation, please visit our web site: [www.womenindistress.org](http://www.womenindistress.org).

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