



## **For Immediate Release**

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# **Atlanta community opens its hearts to PADV**

Hearts with Hope surpasses fundraising and attendance goals

ATLANTA, March 3, 2008 -- Raising \$700,000 Verizon Wireless, GE, Avon, UPS, and scores of others teamed up with Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) for its 20th annual *Hearts With Hope*. PADV surpassed its \$500,000 goal by \$200,000 at the black-tie affair that featured dinner, live entertainment, and silent and live auctions. *Hearts with Hope* is the signature fundraiser and stewardship event for PADV, the largest nonprofit domestic violence organization in Georgia.

John and Cammie Rice co-chaired this year's gala held February 23, 2008, at the InterContinental Hotel Buckhead. "Cammie and I decided to serve as co-chairs of *Hearts with Hope* after learning how great the problem of domestic violence is in metro Atlanta," said John Rice. "We visited a shelter and met some of the women and children who'd found peace and safety there, and we had an opportunity to witness the enormous impact PADV has on our community," continued John Rice.

One of the evening's highlights was the presentation of the *Purple Heart with Hope Award* by Cammie Rice to Carrie Kerr, a domestic violence survivor. "It's up to all of us to ensure that battered women have access to resources and options to escape abusive relationships. It's also vital that their children are provided with supportive intervention to heal from the violence they've witnessed," said Cammie Rice. "The money raised at *Hearts with Hope* will help PADV continue to provide these life-saving services," continued Cammie Rice.

“This year’s gala raised more money than any other *Hearts with Hope* because of the Rice’s extraordinary leadership and the tireless efforts of the host committee and PADV’s board of directors,” said Cathy Willis Spraeetz, president and CEO of PADV. “Atlanta’s corporate and community leaders came together this past weekend with generosity in their hearts to show support for battered women and their children. Their donations will help PADV provide shelter, clothing, and food for battered women and their children, and help survivors build life-sustaining skills to move forward with their lives,” continued Willis Spraeetz.

The event sold out five weeks in advance and was attended by 700 guests -- a record breaking attendance. The gala raises approximately half of PADV’s general operating budget annually. With these funds the agency provides quality programs and services in support of battered women and their children in metro Atlanta.

Alge Crumpler, former tight end for the Atlanta Falcons, was also honored with the *Hope Award* for his efforts to raise awareness about domestic violence. Other VIPs who attended the reception included Mayor Shirley Franklin and Lt. Governor Casey Cagle.

### **About Partnership Against Domestic Violence**

Partnership Against Domestic Violence is the largest and one of the oldest nonprofit domestic violence organizations in Georgia. For more than 30 years, PADV has been providing professional, compassionate, and empowering support to battered women and their children in metro Atlanta. Support includes a 24-hour crisis line, two emergency shelters in metro Atlanta, supportive housing, support groups, legal advocacy, and a teen dating violence prevention program. To learn more about domestic violence and PADV programs and services, please visit [www.padv.org](http://www.padv.org).

### **Background on John and Cammie Rice, Hearts with Hope co-chairs**

John G. Rice is vice chairman of GE and president & CEO of GE Infrastructure. This business segment includes Energy, Aviation, Rail, Oil & Gas, Water, Energy Financial Services, and Aviation Financial Services. He began his General Electric career in 1978.

Rice attended Hamilton College in Clinton, New York and currently serves on the Board of Trustees. He is also a trustee of various other institutions including Emory University and the Walker School, and is on the International Advisory Board of King Fahd University in Saudi Arabia.

Cammie Rice is a senior vice president within the Finance Technology group at Bank of America. She leads the Global Corporate Staff Technology 2007-2011 global strategy. From 1998 to 2006, Rice managed the Americas Strategic Partners at Hyperion Solutions Corporation. Prior to her tenure there, she was president and founder of Digital Connectivity Inc. a digital imaging systems integration company.

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