



For immediate release

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Atlanta opens its doors to help homeless woman and child

Local nonprofit to recognize survivor's achievements in overcoming hardships

ATLANTA, February 12, 2010 – Padmasri Manumari's new life in Atlanta is a reflection of the compassion and generosity of this city. Originally from India, Manumari has overcome physical and emotional abuse, isolation, homelessness, cultural barriers and circumstances beyond belief. In recognition of her achievements, Manumari will be honored by Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) with the sixth annual *Purple Heart with Hope* award. She will receive the honor at *Hearts with Hope*, PADV's primary fundraiser and stewardship event, on February 20, 2010, at the InterContinental Buckhead Hotel. The year 2010 also marks PADV's 35th anniversary.

Fleeing her abusive husband, she was shunned by her community in India and stranded in this country with her young son. But Atlanta's network of social service organizations provided a safety net for them. Manumari and her 10-year-old son found shelter, safety and peace because of organizations like Raksha, International Women's House, Cascade House, Atlanta Children's shelter, Nicolas House as well as PADV.

"It's hard for me to believe what I've been through. But I know bad things happen to make us strong," mused Padma. "PADV was a new beginning. It wasn't just a shelter – but a home away from home – they treated me like family."

Manumari is now living violence free and is working hard at being self-sufficient. She works a full-time and a part-time job, is raising her son to give and expect respect, and has purchased a home of her own.

"The investments made by our community partners have helped Padma become a productive, self-reliant individual who is awash in hope and optimism," Cathy Willis Spraez, president and chief executive officer of PADV. "We are honoring Padma with the *Purple Heart with Hope* award because she embodies the essence of courage, determination and tenacity."

To get the full story on Manumari, click [here](#).

Hearts with Hope Background: The 2010 gala is being led by co-chairs Susie Trotochaud, community philanthropist and volunteer, and Scott Dorfman, president and CEO of Innotrac. Trotochaud and Dorfman, long-time supporters of PADV, are joined by a host committee of executives including: Kelly Barrett, Genevieve Bos, Anne Bowen-Long, Andre De Winter, Melinda Ennis-Roughton, Ann Franks, Tom Franks, Chris Hagler, Joy Jarrett-Shealy, Michelle Johnson, Rena Kilgannon, Debbie Levine, Atlanta City Council President Ceasar Mitchell, Sarah O'Brien, Trish Roberts, Craig Robson, Natalie Ross, Sheryl Sellaway, Keith Shurbutt, Suzanne Sitherwood, Susan Tillery, Michelle Tondi, Mark Weinstein, Jacqueline Welch, Malika White and Wilson White. HWH raises more than half of PADV's annual general operating budget.

PADV Background: For thirty-five years, PADV, the largest domestic violence agency in Georgia, has provided professional support, safe shelter and empowering advocacy to battered women and their children in metro Atlanta. PADV transforms the lives of thousands of domestic violence survivors and their children in metro Atlanta annually through violence prevention, emergency intervention and long-term advocacy. Operating the only state-certified domestic violence shelters in Fulton and Gwinnett Counties, PADV also offers a 24-hour crisis line, long-term housing, support groups, legal advocacy, corporate and community education and a teen dating violence prevention program. To learn more about domestic violence and PADV programs and services, please visit www.padv.org or call 404-870-9600.

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