



Media Release  
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## **Local volunteers help others during difficult times**

### **Atlanta PADV honors its top volunteers**

ATLANTA, April 24, 2009 – Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) celebrated National Volunteer Appreciation Month by saluting all of its volunteers and honoring two very special individuals. On April 20, 2009, Fay Josephs was honored with the Gwinnett Volunteer of the Year Award and Christine Sisco was honored with the Fulton Volunteer of the Year Award.

“Both PADV volunteers have a track-record of going the extra mile for our organization and the women and children we serve,” said Cathy Willis Spraez, president and CEO for PADV. “Our volunteers are more important than ever during this economic recession. PADV volunteers help us continue to meet the constant demand for our services despite dwindling resources,” continued Willis Spraez.

Christine Sisco has been volunteering for two and a half years in the Fulton Shelter Children’s Program. Sisco leads children’s activity groups. She strengthens the children’s program by bringing a true understanding of how domestic violence affects children. “One of the biggest rewards for me is watching the progression that these children make while in the shelter’s program,” said Sisco. “For many of the new children, I can see the trauma they’ve experienced. They are withdrawn, unsure of themselves and uncomfortable in their surroundings. Weeks later, they’ve learned to be just kids again,” continued Sisco.

Fay Josephs has been volunteering with PADV for four years. As a support group facilitator, she helps survivors of domestic violence become self-sufficient through encouragement, support and empowerment. She is a trusted and compassionate facilitator because she’s been down the same road. She grew up in a violent home and was molested by her stepfather. “I had to learn how to survive since I was 16. I totally understand what these women have been through. I know their pain,” said Josephs. Because of her past experiences with abuse, Josephs brings empathy and authenticity to the support group and helps the women realize their self-worth and that they can “make it on their own.”

In Georgia, one in four women will experience intimate partner violence. Consider the following facts:

- More than 3 million children are exposed to intimate partner violence.
- Boys who grow up in violent homes are three times more likely to become adult batterers.
- In Georgia, there were 118 domestic violence related fatalities in 2007.

### **About PADV**

Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) 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. PADV provides violence prevention, emergency intervention and long-term advocacy for battered women and their children including 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).

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