



Media Release
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Contact: Susan Berryman-Rodriguez
(404) 870-9605 or (404) 273-0008
susan@padv.org

Local volunteers honored for their compassionate service at Atlanta domestic violence nonprofit

ATLANTA, May 19, 2010 – Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) celebrated National Volunteer Appreciation Month by saluting its volunteers and honoring two very special individuals at Tacqueria Del Sol. On April 26, 2010, Penny Baker was honored with the Gwinnett Volunteer of the Year Award and Nita Dobbs was honored with the Fulton Volunteer of the Year Award.

“Nita and Penny, PADV’s Volunteers of the Year, are extraordinary women with courage and unsurpassed compassion. Surviving abusive relationships, both Nita and Penny have a heightened understanding of what our clients are currently experiencing,” said Cathy Willis Spratz, president and CEO of PADV. “They’ve traveled similar valleys and peaks in their journey to well-being. They have come full-circle and are now able to share their triumphs with other women who may be struggling.”

Nita Dobbs has been volunteering with PADV for seven years. Promoted after years of service, Dobbs is the sole facilitator in a community support group in Fulton County. Providing a safe and empowering environment, she serves as an inspiration and resource to PADV clients. “Volunteering with PADV is extremely rewarding,” said Nita Dobbs. “As a survivor of domestic violence, I can relate to other women who are dealing with pain and uncertainty. I feel truly blessed to have this passion and opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the women served by PADV.”

A PADV volunteer for three years, Penny Baker prepared for her current role as support group facilitator by working evenings on the crisis line. She has also established relationships with key players that support PADV services in Gwinnett County. “It’s important to me to give back to my community. Surviving a 13-year abusive relationship, I know how important it is to listen with an open heart and mind,” said Penny Baker. “Giving women a sanctuary to connect with other women removes the shackles of alienation and isolation. I can help them see that there is life after a controlling, abusive relationship. I’m living proof!”

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

- In Georgia, there were **129** domestic violence related fatalities in 2009.
- Georgia was recently ranked **15th** in the nation for its rate of men killing women.
- In 2009, **72,185** crisis calls were made to Georgia’s certified domestic violence agencies.

About PADV

Celebrating its 35th anniversary, Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) is the largest and one of the oldest nonprofit domestic violence organizations in Georgia. Serving metro Atlanta, PADV transforms the lives of approximately 16, 000 women and children every year through violence prevention, emergency intervention and long-term advocacy. PADV programs and services include a 24-hour crisis line, two emergency safe houses, long-term supportive housing, support groups, legal advocacy, public assistance, 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 find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PADVAtlanta.

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