

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 9, 2009

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2009 *Communities of Light*TM Launch Event on October 28 at 5:30 pm at Drumthwacket

Womanspace cordially invites the public to celebrate the 8th year of Communities of Light in Mercer County at our annual Launch Event and Reception at Drumthwacket, the Governor's Mansion in Princeton, on Wednesday, October 28. This is the second year that Governor Corzine is serving as Honorary Chair for the Womanspace Communities of LightTM campaign. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and we hope many people will join Womanspace Event Chairs Kristin Marvin Keller and Christine Clayton; the Board of Directors; staff; event committee volunteers, and many more supporters at Drumthwacket.

Please join us for a special program and ceremonial lighting that will serve as a powerful symbol of hope for all those who struggle with violence in their homes. The evening includes local entertainment, provided by an ensemble of 15 students from the Trenton Central High School Jazz Orchestra. Catering for this event is generously donated by McCaffrey's Supermarkets. The program begins promptly at **5:30 pm on Wednesday, October 28, 2009**, rain or shine. **Admission and refreshments are free**, but space is limited and **pre-registration is required**: call Womanspace at 609-394-0136 to register to attend the Launch Event. **Please RSVP by Friday, October 23.**

Communities of Light is an annual public awareness campaign and fundraiser designed to bring multiple NJ counties together to raise awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault and services available to victims and survivors in their community. Several domestic violence agencies join with Womanspace in selling luminary kits (containing votive candles, bags & instructions) and then lighting the candles at dusk on a Sunday during the winter solstice, which this year is Sunday, December 13, 2009. Volunteers throughout the state will coordinate participation within their neighborhoods, businesses, faith-based and community organizations to illuminate the night and send the message that *Peace Begins at Home*.

Womanspace's environmentally-friendly luminary kits were designed by Compass Healthcare Communications and assembled by J. Knipper & Company. Additional corporate event sponsors include Verizon; PNC Bank; and the *Times of Trenton*. The \$10 Luminary kits will be available for sale at the launch event, in over 18 retail locations throughout Mercer County in mid-November and through the volunteer efforts of over 65 neighborhood coordinators throughout Mercer County. Kits are also available at the Womanspace website: www.womanspace.org. All signage for the event was donated by Sign-a-Rama of East Windsor.

Last year Womanspace served over 10,300 adults and children. It is our hope that families who struggle with violence in their homes will see that their community stands with them and learn that help is available. In order to succeed we need the support of the Mercer County community; interested volunteers and supporters can contact Susan D. Klejst, Director of Development, at (609) 394-0136 or at sdk@womanspace.org. Information can also be found by visiting www.womanspace.org.

If you are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, please call our 24-hour hotline at 609-394-9000 to speak with someone immediately.