



For Immediate Release

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Supporting victims of violence through *The Art of Healing* “Cooking” to be featured art form for Phoenix House annual event

The Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program seeks to bring awareness to the community about the issue of domestic and sexual violence by celebrating the connection between the arts and healing during the month of April which is known nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

On April 7 from 5:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m., the community is invited to attend the third annual Art of Healing at Queen of Apostles Parish Hall, 3304 4th Ave. in Council Bluffs. This year’s theme celebrates the art of cooking, featuring fine foods from talented chefs and elegant presentation.

Event sponsors include Mercy Hospital, Hy-Vee, Doll Distributing, Ameristar Casino and Hotel, Council Bluffs Savings Bank, The Daily Nonpareil, Heartland Properties & the Narmi Group.

All proceeds from the event and silent auction will support the work of the Phoenix House which has been helping victims of sexual assault and domestic violence for more than 30 years in Council Bluffs and continues to help women and families find refuge, courage and hope. Not only does the Phoenix House act as a first response and support for victims of sexual violence, but the program also seeks to address social and cultural influences of violence and advocate for policies that support healthy families and relationships.

In addition to hosting the Art of Healing event, Phoenix House staff have organized a proclamation signing by Council Bluffs Mayor Tom Hanafan on March 31 at 8:30 a.m. announcing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Representatives from the Pottawattamie County Sheriff’s Office, the Council Bluffs Police Department, Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs Public Schools and Iowa Legal Aid will be present.

For more information about “The Art of Healing,” information on reserving tickets or making a donation please call Rachel Mabrey at 712-256-2059 extension 1002 or go to www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org.

The Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program is a service of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Des Moines. For more information about Catholic Charities contact 515-237-5078 or go to www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org.

“Guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, we serve all people in need with compassion and competence, advocate for justice, and encourage all people of good will to share in these efforts.”