



*The lifeline for victims of family violence*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **“Silence Hides Violence” Domestic Violence Awareness Month Walk to Honor the Victims and Survivors of Domestic Violence.**

Columbus, GA (October 8, 2017) - **Georgia is ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation for females killed by males.** From 2003 through 2016, at least 1,671 Georgia citizens lost their lives due to domestic violence – 50 victims of domestic violence were killed during this time frame in Muscogee County. The most dangerous time for a victim is when they are leaving the relationship or when they have left the relationship, often victims leave their homes with nothing and turn to domestic violence shelters for safety and support.

Local domestic violence shelter Hope Harbour is excited to announce the Annual “Silence Hides Violence” walk in honor of victims and survivors of domestic violence Tuesday October 10, 2017. Lindsey Reis, Executive Director of Hope Harbour, said “This is a time for our community to come together and show support for victims of domestic violence, their families, and survivors of domestic violence. The walk is a way to raise awareness about domestic violence and the effects it has on our community as a whole. Hope Harbour’s shelter and crisis line give thousands of individuals and families affected by domestic violence the critical support and resources to help them rebuild their lives. Events like “**Silence Hides Violence Walk**” help us to get the message out that there is a place for victims to go and that **LOVE SHOULDN’T HURT.**

This free event is open to the public. Registration for the walk begins at 5:30 pm at Country’s on Broad and the walk will begin at 6:00. We will walk to the Government Center where a Candlelight Vigil will be held at 6:30. We are asking everyone that attends to wear purple in honor of the victims and survivors of domestic violence.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Hope Harbour will hold multiple events throughout the community to raise awareness on domestic violence – for more information on these events please visit our website [www.hopeharbour.org](http://www.hopeharbour.org).

### **About Hope Harbour**

Columbus Alliance for Battered Women, Inc. d/b/a Hope Harbour, a state certified domestic violence shelter, has served Muscogee County and the surrounding area for over 38 years. We offer crisis intervention through our 24-Hour Crisis Hotline and emergency shelter, as well as counseling and support for victims and their children. We also provide education and professional trainings on domestic violence and teen dating violence in schools, the workplace, churches, and throughout the community.

If you would like to make a donation to Hope Harbour, please mail your check to P. O. Box 4182, Columbus, GA 31914.

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