



*The lifeline for victims of family violence*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Celebration of Hope Luncheon to Benefit Local Domestic Violence Shelter

**Columbus, GA (September 7, 2016) – Georgia is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation for females killed by males.** Much closer to home, in 2014 there were 22 homicides in Muscogee County – 10 were related to family violence. 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 **Celebration of Hope**, a fundraising event that will take place at the Columbus GA Convention & Trade Center on Thursday October 6, 2016. “This annual luncheon helps tell Hope Harbour’s story. Our speakers this year will be Vince and Barbara Dooley. They are undoubtedly one of the most legendary couples to ever waltz across the South. Vince Dooley is one of the winningest coaches in the history of college football and a member of the College Football Hall of Fame. Barbara Dooley has been married to this legend almost 50 years, but she hasn’t set idly by or rode on his coattails of success. She is a well-received author, much beloved radio and television personality, non-profit volunteer, and a career woman. Their stories are colorful, witty, and heart-tugging and many sound too unreal to be true.” says Board President Bonnie Kennedy. “It is going to be a wonderful lunch to raise money for our local domestic violence shelter and support those in need.”

Lindsey Reis, Executive Director of Hope Harbour, said, “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. Recently, we have increased the beds in the shelter from 33 to 43 so that we will be able to provide a safe place for even more victims. Events like **Celebration of Hope** help drive funds so desperately needed to help victims of domestic violence move toward safe futures.”

The event is open to the public. The luncheon begins at 11:30 AM and will conclude at 1:00 P.M. Reservations are required. Tickets can be purchased now through September 30 for \$40 each or \$320 for a table of eight. Large baskets filled with wonderful items will be raffled off. Tickets are \$1 each available for purchase from any Board or Auxiliary member or at the luncheon with all proceeds benefiting victims of domestic abuse. For ticket or event information visit [www.hopeharbour.org](http://www.hopeharbour.org) or please call Lindsey Reis at (706) 256-0238.

### 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 37 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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