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For Immediate Release

WOMEN'S PLACE WALK ON NOVEMBER 4 TO RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WELLAND, ON, October 30, 2017 – Anyone watching the news in recent weeks will know that the work to end violence against women is far from over. Whether working in the entertainment industry or in an office, going to school, walking down the street, or spending time in the privacy of their own homes, women too often find themselves the victims of gender-based violence.

This Saturday, November 4, men, women, youth and children from across Niagara will take steps to try to change this reality. By participating in the third annual WAVE (Walk Against Violence Everyone) fundraising walk at the Seaway Mall, walkers will not only raise funds to support the two domestic violence shelters operated by Women's Place of South Niagara in Welland and Niagara Falls (Serenity Place and Nova House). They will also come together to create a wave of awareness that they hope will wipe out domestic violence in the future.

That future is not here yet, as Samantha, a former Women's Place client, is only too aware. Samantha, who plans to speak at this year's event, called the Women's Place support line multiple times, exploring her options before she finally felt she and her daughter could safely leave her husband. She stayed in one of the agency's shelters and worked with their counselling

staff to start the difficult task of moving forward after experiencing regular physical, mental and verbal abuse. “When I left my ex-husband,” she recalls, “I felt like I had nowhere to go. My family lived in Alberta and, due to the abuse I had suffered, I was extremely isolated. I was not allowed to work or have friends, and my ex-husband limited my communication with my family.”

With the support of Women’s Place, Samantha and her daughter have found a new home where they “feel safe and loved”. Many women and children in Niagara, however, still need the support of Women’s Place. That is why organizers hope to raise at least \$20,000 at this weekend’s event. These funds will provide many services to victims of domestic violence including 24-hour support lines, emergency shelter, and counselling, as well as housing and legal support.

Aware of the increasing need for the agency’s services, a number of Women’s Place staff will be volunteering or walking at this year’s event. The Niagara River Lions, local musicians Dylan Marz and Chico Sanchez (also known as the Dealerz Choice Duo) and 91.7 Giant FM’s Pat Porter (who will MC this year’s event) are also “joining the WAVE” to show their support of women in our community.

Registration will remain open all this week for anyone still wishing to “Join the WAVE” at <http://womensplacesn.org/events/jointhewave/>. **Walker check-in starts at 8 a.m on November 4 at the Seaway Mall. Participants and media should look for the tiki hut in Ernie Allen Court (just inside the entrance Winners entrance to the mall). Opening ceremonies will start at 9 a.m.**

For additional information about this event or Women’s Place, please contact Amanda Braet, 905-356-3933 ext. 240, amanda@wpsn.ca or visit the Women’s Place [media centre](#).

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