



WOMEN IN DISTRESS™
OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC.
ESTABLISHING S·A·F·E™
STOP ABUSE FOR EVERYONE™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

Courtney Holshouser, Women In Distress
954-332-3455
cholshouser@womenindistress.org
www.womenindistress.org/starfish.html

Women In Distress 4th Annual Starfish Luncheon

Honors Community Members Who Make a Difference One Person At A Time

Fort Lauderdale – Over 400 people are anticipated to join Women In Distress of Broward County, Inc. to raise funds to aid women, men, and children who are victims of domestic violence and recognize special honorees at the Fourth Annual Starfish Luncheon on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, at the Signature Grand. Registration and a Silent Auction will begin at 11 am, followed by the program and luncheon beginning at 12 noon. Individual luncheon tickets are \$75, table sponsorships are \$1,200, and journal ads start at just \$100.

The event will honor special supporters who have made significant contributions to Women In Distress through their time, talent, and resources. This year, we are proud to announce a new award category: the Starfish Award, presented to a survivor of domestic violence.

Other honorees are:

- Lifetime Achievement: **Lorraine Thomas**
- Community Leader: **Bishop Henry Fernandez, Senior Pastor Carol Fernandez, and The Faith Center**
- Corporate Citizen: **Bank of America**

Lifetime Achievement Award winner Lorraine Thomas said, "I believe in helping women and children. Sometimes things go wrong and they need a helping hand, which Women In Distress offers."

Event planning efforts are led by Event Chairs **Gale Butler** (*AutoNation*) and **Jennifer Klaassens** (*The Wasie Foundation*). Current major supporters include the presenting sponsors AutoNation, Signature Grand, and Sun Sentinel, and other supporters include Publix and The Wasie Foundation.

The popular starfish story is as follows, *"A young girl and her grandmother were walking down the beach. It was a beautiful afternoon and the tide had pulled back leaving hundreds of starfish stranded on the sand. The girl began to run around, picking up the starfish and throwing them back into the water. Her grandmother laughed at her efforts and said "Why do you run about? There are hundreds of starfish and you are wasting your time. You can't possibly make a difference here."*

Her granddaughter stopped, looked carefully at the starfish in her hand and threw it back into the water. She said "Grandma, that may be the case for all of them, but I can make a difference for that one."

This story, inspired by the writing of Loren Eiseley, exemplifies how each and every one of us can make a difference-one person at a time. Following that theme, the Starfish Luncheon honors those who are making a difference in the lives of domestic violence victims in Broward County.

Funds raised through the luncheon will support the Women In Distress emergency shelter and supportive services to victims and their children in addition to domestic violence prevention and education activities surrounding domestic violence. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit www.womenindistress.org or call 954-760-9800.

Women In Distress of Broward County Inc.'s mission is to provide victims of domestic violence with safe shelter, crisis intervention and resources, and to educate the community in order to Stop Abuse For Everyone (SAFE) through Intervention, Education and Advocacy.. Services include counseling, emergency shelter, respite care, advocacy/case management, 24-hour crisis line, referrals to emergency assistance, legal aid and other community resources, community and professional trainings, volunteer programs and a thrift store. For more information on Women In Distress of Broward County, Inc., call 954-760-9800 or visit www.womenindistress.org. 24 hour Crisis Line: (954) 761-1133.

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