**CEO TRANSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**

**For Immediate Release
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**SAFE ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TRANSITION**

**CEO Phil Kline announces retirement and successor Karen Parker is appointed.**

November 3, 2014, Charlotte, NC:

The Safe Alliance Board of Directors announces the retirement of President & CEO Phil Kline.

Kline, a veteran Charlotte Business and Nonprofit leader has led the organization since 2011. After a successful capital campaign to raise more than $9 million for construction expenses, Kline announced the opening of the Clyde & Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter in Charlotte, NC in January 2013. The new 80-bed shelter has quickly become a critical community asset replacing the agency’s 29-bed facility that served the community for more than 30 years. Additionally Kline led the organization through significant restructuring to focus on serving victims of abuse and trauma.

Prior to joining Safe Alliance, Kline served as President & CEO of Charlotte’s Mint Museum of Art where he successfully provided leadership for the building of The Mint Museum Uptown which opened in October 2010, a $60 million facility. A long time community volunteer and child advocate, Kline served as President and Treasurer of the Council for Children’s Rights, a Board member of the Children and Family Services Center and as President and Finance Chair of the Teen Health Connection. Additionally Kline spent more than 27 years with international insurer Royal & SunAlliance serving in various roles including Treasurer and Vice President of Human Resources.

Safe Alliance Board President, Charles Page, praises Kline’s success, “Phil’s wealth of experience and ability to deliver strong results has catapulted Safe Alliance to a new level in terms of its financial stability and strong, innovative programs for the clients we serve. We will be forever grateful to Phil for his leadership and dedication not only to Safe Alliance but to the entire Charlotte community.”

Effective January 1st 2015, Karen Parker will begin her new role as President & Chief Executive Officer of Safe Alliance. Notably she will be the first female to hold the President & CEO position in the organization’s 105 year history serving the Charlotte region. As CEO, Parker will lead a staff of more than 100 professionals and several hundred volunteers in their work to provide sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and trauma services to over 20,000 adults and children in Mecklenburg, Union, Cabarrus and South Iredell counties.

Parker has been employed with a number of nonprofit and government entities in North Carolina, Georgia and Texas and has worked 23 years with organizations focused on assisting trauma survivors and ending domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. She has been employed by Safe Alliance since 2002 in a variety of roles including direct service and management positions and most recently served as Chief Advancement Officer overseeing the organization’s development and communications functions. In 2009 Parker was appointed by Governor Beverly Perdue to chair the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Forensic Medicine Program and is the past board co-chair of the North Carolina Coalition against Domestic Violence.

Parker graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with concentrations in Psychology and Women’s Studies. She also holds a Master’s degree in Urban Studies with a concentration in Nonprofit Administration from Georgia State University in Atlanta. She is a published author and, in 2006, collaborated with the NC Coalition against Domestic Violence to publish a best practices guide for nonprofit domestic violence programs.

“The board knew that we did not need to go far to find the best candidate to lead Safe Alliance,” noted Page. “Karen has a solid track record of building strong programs and exemplary fundraising for the organization. In addition to her solid leadership at both the local and state levels, she led agency rebranding efforts several years ago; played a significant role in our capital campaign to build the new domestic violence shelter; and contributed greatly to the strategic vision of the agency.

Karen is well known for her ability to build collaborations and partnerships and is a sought out thought leader and presenter in her field with nearly 400 presentations and media appearances throughout her career. She demonstrates an inspirational and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those impacted by violence and trauma which directly aligns with Safe Alliance’s core values and mission.”

”I’m thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to serve our region in this new role,“ says Parker. “I look forward to continuing the critical work with our staff, volunteers and community partners to realize our shared goal of ending domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse and building safer, healthier communities.”

Safe Alliance supports victims of domestic and sexual violence, and child abuse and helps people build safe, healthy relationships through a continuum of shelter, counseling, legal and advocacy services. The organization serves over 20,000 people a year in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Lake Norman, Cabarrus, Union and southern Iredell counties while reaching 20,000 more through advocacy and education.

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