**14th Annual Art With Heart Auction To Benefit Safe Alliance**

**Charlotte** – Continuing its tradition of showcasing some of the nation’s most talented artists – while generating critical funds to assist women and children in crisis - the 14th annual Art With Heart Auction will be held at Founders Hall Saturday, February 1, 2014.

Art With Heart has evolved into one of Charlotte’s premier fundraisers that features silent and live auctions with pieces generously donated by many of the most notable artists from around the globe. Since its inception in 2000, Art With Heart has raised more than $1 million for Safe Alliance to provide hope and healing to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Once again WCNC-TV Charlotte Today hosts Colleen Odegaard and Ramona Holloway will serve as emcees for Art With Heart. What a wonderful gift they provide to the community by volunteering their time and talents to make AWH a memorable evening.

To purchase tickets and for more information about Art With Heart, please visit: <http://www.safealliance.org/art-with-heart/>

This year’s Art With Heart Auction is both a fundraiser and a celebration now that Safe Alliance has operated its new 80-bed Clyde and Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter for a full year. The new shelter replaces the old 29-bed facility that was cramped, crowded and always filled beyond capacity. In 2013, the shelter provided safety and sanctuary to more than 950 women and children. The new shelter comes with higher operating costs and proceeds from Art With Heart will directly benefit programs and services for domestic violence survivors.

“We are so proud of the new Safe Alliance domestic violence shelter,” said AWH Committee Co-Chairs Hillary Lacouture and Katherine Daly. “We have seen first-hand how this amazing facility provides hope to women and children when they need it most in their lives. We want all of our guests and patrons to have a remarkable evening while purchasing distinctive art from some of the most creative and respected local and national artists. At the same time, we have a higher purpose – and that is making sure that women and children in crisis know that the community cares about them and wants to help them during their time of need.”

The new Safe Alliance 40,000 square foot shelter space includes: 10 emergency units and 19 apartment - style units, counseling rooms, conference rooms, kitchen/dining room, children’s spaces, donation room, health clinic, laundry and job training center.

“Sincere thanks to the Art With Heart Committee for its tireless work to support Safe Alliance, especially now that our new shelter has proven to be a critical community asset,” said Safe Alliance President & CEO Phil Kline. “Art With Heart is our signature event – blending a wide range of art and entertainment with our mission of providing hope and healing to people in crisis. It is a critical fundraiser for our agency and we are so grateful to all that attend and all that work so hard to produce a memorable evening.”

**Featured Artists**

This year’s featured galley is “Hidell Brooks” – specializing in the work of well-established and solidly emerging artists working in a contemporary narrative and figurative vein. Hidell Brooks provides an excellent atmosphere for both individuals and corporations to contemplate quality works of art in all styles, mediums and price ranges.   Hidell Brooks represent the work of regional and national artists, while maintaining its original goal of exhibiting works of art by American artists who have rarely been shown in the southeast. The gallery is committed to supporting the arts in the community and beyond. <http://www.hidellbrooks.com/>

We are honored to report that we have received many remarkable premier art donations that will be available at our auction. To view works of art that will be available on February 1, at Founders Hall, please visit: <http://www.facebook.com/artwithheart>

**High Tech Art Auction**

BidPal is returning to this year’s auction. The heart and soul of Art With Heart is the joy of bidding and purchasing valuable pieces of art. This year, guests will utilize an App on their cell phones enabling them to view and bid on silent auction items – and to receive alerts when they have been outbid on an item. At auction’s end, guests will know immediately the items they have won – and they will be able to instantly check out. This technology provides an email receipt for items purchased while avoiding checkout lines.

**Art With Heart Sponsors**

Corporate, media and in-kind sponsors for the 2014 Art With Heart Auction include Presenting Sponsor Bank of America, US Airways, King & Spalding, Halstead Foundation, Morgan Keegan/Raymond James, Gatewood Healthcare Management, Gerrard Builders, Lowry, Haywood & Associates, Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, Frenzel Properties, Dr. Christopher Kibler, Gracie & Scott Wooster, Christopher Branch, Greg & Katie Hatcher, Mythic, Joyner Benfield, Norman Sound, Coca Cola, Halstead Design, CBS Radio, NBC Charlotte, Frame Warehouse, Yelp, Madtoy Box, Lisa Cox Photography.

**Art With Heart Contacts**

For event information and to purchase tickets, please contact Safe Alliance Community Relations Director Carol Roth at (704) 367 2799 or [Carol.Roth@safealliance.org](mailto:Carol.Roth@safealliance.org)

Media members can contact AWH Co-chairs Katherine Daly [Katherinejoynerdaly@gmail.com](mailto:Katherinejoynerday@gmail.com) and Hillary Lacouture [hlacouture@thejewellagency.com](mailto:hlacouture@thejewellagency.com) for information about this year’s featured artists and artwork.

Media Members can contact Bill Coy at 704 367 2707 or [Bill.Coy@safealliance.org](mailto:Bill.Coy@safealliance.org) for information about the mission of Safe Alliance.

#