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**For Immediate Release**

**15th 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 15th annual Art With Heart Auction will be held at Founders Hall Saturday, February 7, 2015.

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.

WSOC-TV Anchor Erica Bryant – a Safe Alliance Board Member -- will serve as emcee for this year’s Art With Heart. What a wonderful gift Erica is providing to the community by volunteering her time and talents to make AWH a memorable evening.

To purchase tickets and for more information about Art With Heart, please visit:

<http://www.artwithheartauction.com/>

**“In Our Backyard”**

Emily Netzel and Savannah Solomon are Co-Chairs of the Art With Heart Auction 2015 Committee.

“The theme of our gala this year is “In Our Back Yard.” We know that nationally, one in four women will be impacted by domestic violence,” said Emily and Savannah. “We know that each day in our country three women will be murdered by their intimate partner. And tragically, we know that 15 million children witness domestic violence each year.”

“But did you know that Charlotte Mecklenburg Police responded to more than 36,000 domestic violence-related calls last year? The Safe Alliance Domestic Violence Hotline answered 11,500 calls for help and information. Safe Alliance accompanied more than 4,200 women to court seeking domestic violence protective orders. The Clyde and Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter in Charlotte provided sanctuary to almost 1,000 women and children in life-threatening situations. The shelter has 80 beds and was opened almost two years ago. It is a critical community asset that has been consistently operating at our above capacity. All this is taking place right “In Our Back Yard.”

“Sincere thanks to the Art With Heart Committee for its tireless work to support Safe Alliance,” said Safe Alliance President & CEO Karen Parker. “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 gallery is “Shain Gallery.” Established in 1998, Shain Gallery has earned a reputation as one of the finest contemporary art providers in Charlotte, North Carolina. Located in Myers Park and owned by Gabrielle Shain-Bryson, the gallery was awarded Charlotte Magazine’s "Best Gallery" distinction. Shain Gallery serves a discriminating clientele of regional homeowners and corporations and represents over forty different nationally and regionally acclaimed artists. The gallery offers consultation and acquisition assistance, an annual schedule of exhibitions, and welcomes clients who are just beginning to collect art and those who have been collecting for years.  The gallery is committed to supporting the arts in the community and beyond. <http://www.shaingallery.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 7, at Founders Hall, please visit: <http://www.artwithheartauction.com/art/>

**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.

**Our Sponsors**

Safe Alliance and the Art With Heart Auction committee are sincerely grateful to presenting sponsor **Bank of America.** We are honored to partner with BOA and thank the bank for helping us to make AWH 2015 a reality. Our supporting sponsors include: **WSOC-TV, Shain Gallery, Coca Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated, JSam’s Wine and Spirits, King & Spalding, Chicago Title, American Airlines/US Airways, Limelight Web Development and Chris Edwards Photographer.**

**Art With Heart Contacts**

For event information and to purchase tickets, please contact Safe Alliance Events Manager Savannah Smith savannah.smith@safealliance.org or 704 367 2733.

Media members can contact AWH Co-chairs Emily Netzel emilynetzel@gmail.com and Savannah Solomon savannahsolomon@gmail.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 for information about the mission of Safe Alliance.

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