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**Ben & Jerry’s Serving Free Cones to Benefit Safe Alliance**

**Cornelius –** If you are one of the millions of people around the world that love Ben & Jerry’s ice cream, make sure to mark April 9, 2013 on your calendar. It’s Global Free Cone Day and each customer who visits a Ben & Jerry’s shop that day will receive a free small cone.

This is particularly good news for people living in the Davidson and Huntersville communities, where proceeds from Free Cone Day will benefit Safe Alliance, a social service agency that provides hope and healing to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Specifically, the Huntersville Ben & Jerry’s at Birkdale Village, managed by Karen Toney, and the B&J shop in Davidson, managed by Angie Jewett, selected Safe Alliance as the charity they wanted to support.

“We are so honored that Ben & Jerry’s has selected the Lake Norman Office of Safe Alliance as their charitable partner,” said Lucille Marciano Metts, Safe Alliance Region Director. “Funds raised will stay in our community where we work with and counsel victims of crime and trauma. We are about helping families and promoting healthy relationships. It’s a wonderful gift – and let’s face it, Ben & Jerry’s ice cream is amazing.”

Ben & Jerry’s says this is a way to thank their customers for their support and to celebrate 3 decades of scooping the “chunkiest and funkiest” ice cream, frozen yogurt and sorbet. There is no catch. At the Davidson and Birkdale Village shops, there will also be fun family activities including jugglers, musicians and face painting.

Safe Alliance will have representatives at each shop to answer questions about our programs and services, including the opening of the new Clyde and Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter.

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Safe Alliance supports victims of domestic and sexual violence, and child abuse and helps people build safe, healthy relationships.   We do this through a continuum of shelter, counseling, legal and advocacy services serving over 20,000 people a year in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union and south Iredell counties while reaching 20,000 more through advocacy and education.