**13th Annual Art With Heart Auction To Benefit Safe Alliance**

**“Charlotte Today’s” Colleen Odegaard and Ramona Holloway to Emcee**

**Charlotte** – Continuing its tradition of showcasing some of the region’s most talented artists, the 13th annual Art With Heart Auction will be held at Founders Hall Saturday, February 2, 2013.

Art With Heart has evolved into one of Charlotte’s premier annual fundraisers that features silent and live auctions with pieces generously donated from many of the most notable artists in the Southeast. 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 host Colleen Odegaard will serve as emcee for Art With Heart. We are grateful that her new co-host Ramona Holloway will join her. 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 opened its new 80-bed Clyde and Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter. The new shelter replaces the old 29-bed facility that was cramped, crowded and always filled beyond capacity. The new shelter comes with higher operating costs. Proceeds from Art With Heart will directly benefit women and children seeking sanctuary from violent abusers.

“We are so proud of the new Safe Alliance domestic violence shelter,” said AWH Committee Co-Chairs Hillary Lacouture and Katherine Daly. “And that’s why this year’s auction takes on even greater importance. We want all of our guests and patrons to have a remarkable evening while purchasing distinctive art from some of the region’s most creative and respected artists. At the same time, we have a higher purpose – and that is assisting women and children transitioning from violent situations to safety.”

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.

“We are so grateful to the Art With Heart Committee for its tireless work to support Safe Alliance, especially now that our new shelter is open,” said Safe Alliance President & CEO Phil Kline. “When our friends and supporters attend Art With Heart they are not only guaranteed a remarkable evening of art and entertainment, but they are assisting us in our mission to provide hope and healing to people in crisis.”

**Featured Artists**

This year’s featured galley is “Elder Gallery,” – Art for corporate and private collectors.

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

We are honored to report that we have received many remarkable premier art donations that will be available at our auction including 2 pieces donated from Jane and Hugh McColl’s collection, 1 piece donated from Bank of America’s private collection and 3 pieces donated by the Elder Gallery.

To view works of art that will be available on February 2, 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. For the second consecutive year, guests will receive a hand-held device 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, they 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 From Our Shelter**

Amidst the hundreds of pieces of art on display from regional and nationally-known artists, we are also featuring what we believe to be a very powerful and proud exhibit. As part of an “Arts Celebration,” organized by the Art With Heart Committee in conjunction with Community Matters: Insurance Partners of Charlotte, families living at our Shelter for Battered Women painted and created works of art that will be prominently displayed at our gala. This art is not for sale – but stands as a testament to the strength and courage of those who have escaped from the hands of batterers while working to transition their lives from violent situations to safety.

**Art With Heart Sponsors**

Corporate, media and in-kind sponsors for the 2013 Art With Heart Auction include Presenting Sponsor Bank of America, Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, US Airways, Piedmont Natural Gas, The Norman Group, Morgan Keegan/Raymond James, Gatewood Healthcare, NBC Charlotte, Coca Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated, King & Spalding, MadToyBox, Lowry Haywood & Associates, Halstead Design, Joyner Benfield, Impact Mailing Services, GHMS, Lantern Builders, Pure Barre, Charlotte Magazine, REDF, Amelie’s French Bakery, Norman Sounds, Party Reflections, Elevate Lifestyle, Liza Cox Photography, Halstead Foundation, Marks Family Foundation , Gracy & Scott Wooster.

**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

Media members can contact AWH Co-chairs Katherine Daly katherinejoynerdaly@gmail.com and Hillary Lacouture 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 for information about the mission of Safe Alliance.