**Safe Alliance Selected as Charlotte Wine and Food Weekend Charity Partner**

**Charlotte -**- Safe Alliance proudly announces that it has been selected as a charitable partner of the 2015-2016 Charlotte Wine and Food Weekend that is dedicated to making significant contributions to local charity’s that benefit children and their families in the Charlotte community.

Since its inception in 1989, Charlotte Wine and Food Weekend has attracted many of the best chefs and winemakers from around the world to produce a series of events that showcase the very finest in culinary culture, taste, wine and cuisine. Forbes Travel Guide ranked Charlotte Wine & Food Festival one of the top 5 in the United States in 2014.

“We are honored to partner with Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend,” said Safe Alliance President & CEO Karen Parker. “Our programs and services involve working with children that have been impacted by severe trauma. It can be heartbreaking at times, but our staff is there to help families when they need help the most.”

Safe Alliance is a trauma-informed agency that has been serving the Charlotte region for more than 105 years. The mission of Safe Alliance is to provide hope and healing to people in crisis.

At the Clyde & Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter in Charlotte, we provided sanctuary to nearly 1,000 women and children last year escaping life-threatening situations. At the Tree House Children’s Advocacy Center in Union County, we work with children that have been impacted by child abuse, sexual assault, neglect and those that have witnessed violence. Through our Sexual Trauma Resource Centers, we respond to victims of sexual assault including hospital accompaniment and support groups.

Across our geographic footprint, all of our clients have access to highly-trained counselors that are licensed In Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

"Adding Safe Alliance to our charity partners gives us that much more incentive to do what we do each and every day because of the valuable work they do," said Dockery Clark, Executive Director of Charlotte Wine & Food. "We are thankful we are able to share our donations with the organization because the money will help children conquer tough situations they've been through, and ultimately save lives. Nourishing Youth and Children, nurturing the whole child (body, mind and spirit), is our mission."

Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend leaders have distributed more than $4 million to local charities over the past 25 years. Safe Alliance is honored to join the Council for Children’s Rights; Second Harvest Food Bank; Pat’s Place Child Advocacy Center; and Charlotte Concerts as charitable partners.

**Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend**

The Queen City welcomes thousands of wine and food lovers for one of the Southeast's largest wine and food events, which has raised more than $4.3 million during its history for local children’s charities. Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend will hold the Big Bottles & Blues event on May 9, 2015. The next Weekend event will be held in the spring of 2016. All tickets will be available online.

**(More)**

Since its inception in 1989, Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend has grown into one of the Southeast's most successful fundraising wine and food events. Forbes Travel Guide ranks Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend in the top five must-visit wine and food events in the country. The Weekend draws notable winemakers from across the country and around the world and pairs them with Charlotte's top chefs for five days of fun and educational events to benefit children’s charities.  For more information, LIKE us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CLTWineandFood. Check the web site for tickets

**Safe Alliance**

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 assisting over 20,000 people a year in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union and south Iredell counties while reaching 20,000 more through advocacy and education.

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