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**Insurance Businesses Compete in DodgeBall Tournament to Raise $50,000 for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**

**Charlotte** – Community Matters: Insurance Partners of Charlotte is hosting its second annual Dodgeball Tournament April 12, 2013, with a goal of raising $50,000 – or more – to benefit the programs and services of Safe Alliance.

42 teams representing large insurance companies, insurance brokers, risk managers and insurance industry support services have each pledged to raise at least $1,000 -- for the opportunity to hurl dodgeballs at each other in the name of charity. It is great fun and great competition –as these business competitors work together to raise funds for women and children who are victims of violent crimes.

Community Matters has officially kicked-off “year two” of its innovative approach to community services. The Dodgeball tournament is the first of many fundraising events this year that Community Matters has planned to benefit Safe Alliance.

“Ultimately, we want to connect all 10,000 insurance professionals in the region as members of Community Matters,” said AMWIN’s Vice President Tom Lott, a Community Matters Steering committee member. “What we did last year was amazing – collaborating as insurance professionals and presenting Safe Alliance with a check for $200,000. That was a testimony to the quality of people that work in our industry. “

**Dodgeball Tournament Details:**

**When: Friday, April 12, 2013, from 11 AM to 3 PM.**

**Where: The Sports Connection, 10930 Granite Street, Charlotte, NC 28273**

**Why: Teams of 8 from local insurance firms and companies giving back to the community and raising money while taking a public stand against domestic violence and sexual assault.**

**Website:** [**http://communitymatterscharlotte.org/**](http://communitymatterscharlotte.org/)

“Community Matters made a huge difference in the lives of the people we worked with at Safe Alliance in 2012,” said Phil Kline, Safe Alliance President & CEO. “Their support of our mission to provide hope and healing to people in crisis is inspiring and genuine. And the Dodgeball Tournament is incredible fun and entertainment. “

Members of the Carolina Panthers and local media personalities are scheduled to attend – and play an exhibition game – as they did at the 2012 tournament.

Snyder’s-Lance Risk Manager and Community Matters Steering Committee member Angela Matherly is the Dodgeball Tournament Director.

“This year there will be two levels of play – competitive and recreational,” said Angela. “The competitive teams get really into it and are serious about winning. Instead of trophies, we are awarding the winning team members I-Pads. But the big win here is raising money for Safe Alliance. We believe in the work they do – particularly helping women and children transition away from violent situations to safety. As insurance professionals, we are proud to support that process.”

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Community Matters is a new nonprofit comprised by insurance and risk management professionals that have joined together to make a difference in our community – one charity at a time.

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.

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