

The American Domestic Violence Crisis Line Marks 5th Anniversary of Operations in Portland, OR – News Release

Portland, Oregon, April 1, 2006 – Tucked away on the west side of Portland is a small charity doing a big job that no one else in the USA is doing: operating a domestic violence crisis line that is toll free internationally to help abused American women & children living in foreign countries. The crisis line also operates toll free nationally to help the victims' families, usually mothers and fathers, in the USA, and for survivors to call once they arrive back to the USA.

The organization was founded by Paula Lucas after she fled a foreign country with her children to escape domestic violence and child abuse and came to Portland to live with her sister. Paula was determined to help other victims being battered overseas who have no one to turn to. Today the organization has 2½ employees and around 25 volunteers who help battered Americans around the world. The organization averages 110 crisis calls and emails per month. In addition to providing domestic violence advocacy over the crisis line, advocates provide safety planning, referrals to resources and case management. The organization also provides danger to safety relocation back to the USA (airline tickets), hotel stays during transit, payment of legal retainers to enable battered mothers to file for custody of their children in the USA, and a one year self-sufficiency transitional housing program in the Portland metro area. The charity carries a case load of about 20-30 families that are in various stages of fleeing violence trans-nationally on an on-going basis.

According to the Association of Americans Resident Overseas, over 4.2 million American civilians are registered with American embassies overseas. Unofficial estimates reach 5 to 6 million. If all of the American civilians living overseas were placed in one state, it would be the 25th most populous state in the USA.

In the first quarter of 2006, the organization helped victims in 24 countries: Australia, Canada, Caribbean, England, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Senegal, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The organization has won several national award competitions including *The Volvo for Life Safety Award*, *The Mary Byron Celebrating Solutions Award*, and the *Heinz Family R.O.S.E. Achievement Award*. The cause was recently featured in an issue of IMAGINE Magazine.

For more information please contact, Paula Lucas at:

American Domestic Violence Crisis Line, 866-USWOMEN

Tel: (503) 203-1444 · Fax: (503) 907-6554

email: lucas@866uswomen.org · Website www.866uswomen.org