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DUNWOODY CITIZENS URGED TO DONATE OLD CELL PHONES TO HELP LOCAL VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month; Empowerment Resource Center for Women (ERC) and Verizon Wireless' HopeLine® Phone Donation Program Critical Lifeline to Georgians in Abuse Crisis

Dunwoody, Ga. – During the next 30-minutes, approximately 200 women in Georgia will be beaten by someone they love. In observation of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Empowerment Resource Center for Women (ERC), in collaboration with Verizon Wireless, is continuing its efforts to help victims of domestic violence in Georgia and encouraging residents to donate any no-longer-used cell phone, during the 30-day HopeLine® phone drive. From November 10th through December 10, 2008, wireless phones, batteries and accessories, in any condition from any wireless service provider, can be donated at four collection sites around the city of Dunwoody: Kroger at Orchard Park, Peachtree Charter Middle School, Dunwoody High School, and the Dunwoody Public Library.

The Empowerment Resource Center for Women (ERC) is a non-profit, community based organization which serves vulnerable women. The primary focus of ERC's community outreach efforts is to educate and equip individuals with the tools to spur positive, behavioral change, and strengthen their sense of self-confidence in choosing healthier, safer alternatives. Verizon Wireless is a recognized corporate leader in the ongoing domestic violence awareness campaign. The 30-day HopeLine phone drive turns unused wireless phones into support for victims of domestic violence. Phones are refurbished or recycled, and funds are used to purchase new wireless phones with airtime for victims or used to fund prevention and awareness programs.

“Last year, Georgians donated more than 18,000 phones for HopeLine, which equals thousands of minutes of freedom for domestic violence victims right here in Georgia,” said Jeff Mango, President of

the GA/AL region for Verizon Wireless. “We are asking all Georgians to dig through their junk drawers and donate no longer used wireless phones to assist victims of domestic violence. Wireless phones and technology can serve as a vital link to emergency or support services in a time of crisis or as a reliable, safe connection to employers, family and friends as survivors rebuild their lives.”

A few facts about domestic violence:

- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women in the United States - more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.
- Georgia ranks seventh in the nation in the rate of women killed by men.
- The costs to U.S. businesses of intimate partner violence exceed \$5.8 billion each year in absenteeism, lower productivity, turnover and safety costs - \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health care services.
- Domestic violence claims at least eight million workdays each year, or the equivalent of 32,000 full-time jobs.

For more information, visit: www.EmpowerYoungWomen.org/StopViolence.

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About Empowerment Resource Center for Women, Inc. (ERC)

Empowerment Resource Center for Women (ERC) is a non-profit, 501(C)(3) community based organization which serves vulnerable women. It is our goal to increase public knowledge and reduce the stigma associated with domestic violence and other women’s health issues. For more information about ERC’s community outreach programs and services, go to: www.EmpowerYoungWomen.org.