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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ATLANTA CITIZENS URGED TO DONATE OLD CELL PHONES TO HELP LOCAL VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Atlanta, 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 (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 October 1st through October 31, 2011, wireless phones, batteries and accessories, in any condition from any wireless service provider, can be donated at two collection sites around the city of Atlanta: ERC Office and the Auburn Avenue Research Library.

Empowerment Resource Center (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.

“One person’s trash can amount to treasure in the support of victims of domestic violence,” said Jacqueline Brown, Executive Director of Empowerment Resource Center. “Whether refurbished or recycled, donated cell phones provide vital access to emergency services for women or fund prevention and awareness programs in the Atlanta metro area. Since 2008, ERC has collected hundreds of donated phones for HopeLine. Once again, we are asking everyone across Atlanta to donate old cell phones and accessories to assist domestic violence victims during critical times.”

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 community based organization, with 501(C)(3) status which directly delivers health-related programs and services, with a priority focus on women. It is our goal to increase public knowledge and reduce the stigma associated with domestic violence and other women's health issues. Please visit our website at www.EmpowerYoungWomen.org for more information about ERC's programs and services.