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**NEWS RELEASE
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**Newhouse Promotes Fairness, Dignity, Respect for Victims of Domestic Violence
During 2010 National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

(Kansas City, Missouri, April 18, 2010)— Newhouse recognizes April 18 - 24, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and celebrates this year's theme, "Crime Victims' Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect."

Victims and advocates demanded *fairness, dignity, and respect*, and Newhouse acknowledges the progress made toward realizing these goals. "Newhouse programs empower women residents to make permanent changes to end the violence in their lives," say Leslie Caplan, Newhouse President. "As an organization that provides safe shelter and other critical services to victims of domestic violence, Newhouse understands and supports the ideals celebrated during this week."

"Newhouse also recognizes National Crime Victims' Rights week to increase awareness and emphasize the fact that domestic violence is a crime," continues Caplan. According to the CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, 1 in 4 women in the United States are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives (2009). In 2009, Newhouse served 943 women and children who were victims of domestic violence.

Unfortunately, victims' rights are not always enforced. Some victims receive no notice when a trial is scheduled or an offender released. Some courts fail to order restitution or issue protection orders to keep victims safe. Such failures not only block victims' access to their rights, but also endanger women victims of domestic violence.

For additional information about National Crime Victims' Rights Week and ideas on how to serve victims in your community visit the Office of Justice Programs web site, www.ncvrw.org. For more ideas on how to volunteer, visit the Office for Victims of Crime Web site, www.crimevictims.gov.

About Newhouse

Founded in 1971, the Newhouse mission is to break the cycle of domestic violence by providing tools that allow women to make positive choices and lead self-sufficient lives. In 2009, Newhouse sheltered 943 women and children. www.newhouseshelter.org

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