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Newhouse Founding Committee Member Wins National Sunshine Peace Award
Prestigious award honors vital role of domestic violence workers

(Kansas City, MO, April 16, 2010) – Newhouse founding committee member and long-time volunteer Dortha Mae Olsen is a recipient of the 2010 Sunshine Peace Award, a prestigious award established to honor the vital role that workers in the domestic violence field play within communities. Both Ms. Olsen and Newhouse will receive \$5,000 gifts from the Sunshine Lady Foundation in honor of the award.

Mrs. Olsen, a Kansas City resident who celebrates her 90th birthday this May, is one of 15 people from across the country honored with this year's award. Previous recipients include: Rita Smith, Executive Director, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Elizabeth Martin, founder of womenslaw.org; Moncella McCree-Smith, Vice President of Shelter Services, Newhouse, and many other men and women who have made a difference in this field.

“Dortha Mae has dedicated much of her life to helping women escape domestic violence. She has been intimately involved in the life and growth of this urban core shelter since three neighborhood faith communities founded it in 1971. She has served as a volunteer, a member of the agency's Board of Directors, a chaplain, an avid supporter of all special events and projects, and as a generous friend and donor.” says Leslie Caplan, Newhouse President. “We are excited and happy for Dortha Mae—we know how much she deserves this honor.”

Since they began in 1998, five Missourians have been selected to win Sunshine Peace Awards. Two of those were honored for their work with Newhouse, including Mrs. Olsen. Ms. Olsen will travel to Wilmington, NC this August to accept her award.

The Sunshine Peace Awards are presented by the Sunshine Lady Foundation, founded by Doris Buffett, sister to investor Warren Buffett. Ms. Buffett established the Sunshine Lady Foundation in 1996 and to date has provided over \$100 million for various projects including scholarships, fellowships, and to assist women, children, and families in need.

Ms. Olsen is available for interviews regarding this award and her history with Newhouse. To arrange an interview, contact Elizabeth Wheeler, Newhouse Development Coordinator, 816-474-6446 x226, developmentcoordinator@newhouseshelter.org

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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