



News Release

For immediate release

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Cammie and John Rice to be honored for extraordinary commitment

ATLANTA – January 25, 2011 – Cammie and John Rice are longtime supporters of Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV). In recognition of their dedication to improving the lives of domestic violence survivors, the couple will receive the **2011 Hope Award** at the 23rd annual *Hearts with Hope* gala March 5 at the Cobb Energy Centre.

The Rice's have recently been transferred to Hong Kong, where John will be Vice Chairman of GE responsible for Global Operations. He and Cammie, a former executive with Bank of America, have supported various community activities, including co-chairing PADV's 20th annual *Hearts with Hope* in 2008 which achieved record attendance and fundraising results.

"Cammie and John have devoted themselves to their community and live lives with purpose and meaning. I can't think of a couple more deserving of this award," said Cathy Willis Spraez, president and chief executive officer of PADV. "Even though the Rices have relocated, we know they will continue to be a guiding force in PADV's work and mission."

The Rices continued to support PADV on the 2009 and 2010 *Hearts with Hope* host committees. Cammie Rice served on PADV's Board of Directors for two years and chaired the Development Committee, while her husband facilitated GE's participation in a variety of activities including sponsorships and workplace domestic violence training.

"It's up to all of us to ensure that domestic violence survivors have options and access to resources to escape abusive relationships," said Cammie Rice. "I am proud to have served on PADV's board and to lead its fundraising efforts in 2010. Once you become aware of how prevalent the problem is, you want to get involved."

"Obviously, supporting PADV makes sense from a moral perspective, but it also makes good economic sense. Providing a safe place for women and children to go will help reduce the significant emotional and financial toll associated with domestic violence, which includes \$8 billion spent annually on health care and related costs" said John Rice. "PADV helps survivors build life-sustaining skills, find jobs and move forward with their lives. This leads to a more productive and prosperous economy and community. PADV deserves our support."

Willis Spraez said that PADV has set up a special tribute donation fund in honor of the 2011 Hope Awardees, Cammie and John Rice. Tribute donations can be made at padv.org. In addition, the organization is seeking sponsorships for the event.

“In recognition of the Rices’ indelible mark on our organization, PADV is inviting Atlantans to join us in celebrating them at the 2011 Hearts with Hope gala or make a tribute donation in their honor to PADV,” said Willis Spraez. “These donations are vital to our work as *Hearts with Hope* raises more than half of PADV's general operating budget annually. With these funds, PADV provides life saving programs and services to Atlanta-area domestic violence survivors.”

About PADV: PADV is the largest and one of the oldest nonprofit domestic violence agencies in Georgia. Serving metro Atlanta since 1975, PADV helps to transform the lives of approximately 18,000 women and children every year through emergency intervention, violence prevention and long-term advocacy. PADV’s mission is to end the crime of intimate partner violence and empower its survivors. Visit padv.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

About Intimate Partner Violence in Georgia: Intimate partner violence is widespread. In 2009, there were 125 domestic violence related homicides in Georgia, which was a 12 percent increase over the previous year. Georgia is 10th in the nation for its rate of men killing women. There were 72,185 crisis calls to Georgia’s certified domestic violence agencies in 2009. One in four women will experience intimate partner violence.

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