



Media Release
For Immediate release
April 30, 2011

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Gwinnetian is honored for making a difference in the lives of abused women and their children

ATLANTA, April 30, 2011 -- Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) celebrated National Volunteer Appreciation Month by saluting its volunteers at Taqueria Del Sol this past April. Six individuals were recognized including Gloria Edwards, a volunteer from Gwinnett County, for their unique contributions to PADV.

Gloria Edwards was honored with the Gwinnett Volunteer of the Year award. Edwards has been a PADV volunteer for more than two years. She works with PADV's Gwinnett children's program.

"I lost my aunt to domestic violence and it changed our family forever. I sometimes wonder if she would still be with us today if she had gotten help from an organization like PADV," said Gloria Edwards. "I volunteer with PADV in honor of my aunt and because I want to give back to the community helping those in need."

Volunteering with PADV since October 2008, "Gloria is incredibly reliable. Everyone at the Gwinnett safe house, especially the kids, look forward to seeing her. She always has a smile on her face, kind words for the children and an enthusiasm that is infectious," said Cathy Willis Spraez, PADV president and chief executive officer.

In 2010, PADV and its clients benefited from more than 7,000 volunteered hours in child care, legal advocacy, crisis line management, group projects, facilities assistance and support group facilitation. However, volunteering is mutually beneficial. "Volunteering with PADV provides several benefits to those individuals donating their time that include making a difference in the lives of others, creating a positive change, and being a part of a community that cares," said Willis Spraez.

The following volunteers were also honored for their service:

- Brooks Howard -- Fulton Volunteer of the Year
- Webb Spraez - Just Cause Award
- Camesha Jones - Just Cause Award
- William Cameron - Just Cause Award
- Jayne Hoffman - PADV's volunteer with the most hours
- Marquez Gaskin - PADV Intern of the Year

To learn more about volunteering with PADV, visit padv.org or call 404-870-9612.

About PADV

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 2010, there were 130 domestic violence related homicides in Georgia, a 5 percent increase over the previous year. Georgia is ranked 10th in the nation for its rate of men killing women. One in four women will experience intimate partner violence. According to the CDC, domestic violence costs more than \$8.3 billion annually through increased health care costs.

Caption for photo: Back row, from L to R: William Cameron, Jayne Hoffman, Brooks Howard, and Marquez Gaskin. Front row, from L to R: Camesha Jones, Gloria Edwards and Webb Spraetz