



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Walk Through the Door, Take a Journey



A door. A suitcase.

Picture a woman. She is living in fear. Every breath of every second of every minute of every day, she lives in fear of the person she loves. She is filled with hope; she is filled with despair - a seesaw of emotion that accompanies the bruises, the burns, and the scars to her body...to her heart. One day she finally finds the courage to walk through the door, taking with her only a suitcase filled with years of living.

“A Woman’s Journey from Domestic Violence Victim to Survivor,” by Stacie Dubay, is an interactive traveling exhibit that has been on display at the State Capitol, the campus of Michigan State University, City Hall, the Michigan Women’s Historical Center, Affirmations, Judge Krause’s courtroom and several other locations throughout mid-Michigan. The exhibit has inspired a variety of responses: a law professor taught her class around it; a men’s group organized an event to discuss men’s roles in ending violence, a woman was compelled to begin an animal foster care program after she read a statement on the door about a family pet being harmed to control a victim, another woman had her picture taken walking through the door and sent it to her best friend as a sign for her to leave her own abusive relationship; several eighth grade boys wrote heart warming letters about being positively affected by viewing the door during a class trip ; a domestic violence victim contacted her local domestic violence agency for services after seeing the exhibit at a local coffee shop.

The art exhibit began as a project to create survivor art during the filming of a domestic violence documentary two years ago. The documentary fell through, but the exhibit was completed. It is intended to honor the strength and courage of women who have experienced domestic violence and to encourage others to take action. Viewers are invited to walk through the door and open the suitcases. Survivors are invited to sign the back of the door. A comment book, artist statement, resource materials, and information are available to the public.

Detailed pictures of the Door are now online at <http://giftfromwithin.org/html/artpage3.html> courtesy of Gift from Within, an international nonprofit organization providing support to survivors of trauma and victimization. With clickable pictures, the Gift from Within website gives a detailed look at different sections of the door creating an interactive experience for viewers. You can also read more about the door in EVE, Inc.’s E-Newsletter located online at <http://www.eveinc.org/enewsletter.html> To see the door live, mark your calendars for April 11-17 and stop by the Duderstadt Gallery in Ann Arbor for the 3rd annual “rEVOLUTION: Art Making Change” event sponsored by the University of Michigan Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC). A formal opening and reception will take place Friday, April 11 at 7 pm and art will be on display through April 17.

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Stacie Dubay, LMSW is the Counseling Supervisor at End Violent Encounters (EVE), Inc. in Lansing, Michigan. She received her Masters Degree in Social Work from Grand Valley State University and her B.S. in Psychology from Michigan State University. She has been working in the field of domestic violence for eleven years. Stacie began creating art as both a physical and emotional escape. She hopes to educate communities, encourage dialogue, motivate others, and validate others' experiences.

EVE, Inc. (End Violent Encounters), formerly known as CADA, is Ingham County's domestic violence shelter and supportive services. EVE provides shelter, crisis intervention, 24-hour crisis line support (517-372-5572), advocacy, personal protection order assistance, non-residential advocacy, counseling, support groups, and children's programs to survivors of domestic violence. EVE also offers community education including dating violence prevention to middle and high school students. For more information call us at 517-372-5976 or visit us online at www.eveinc.org