



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**VERA HOUSE FOUNDATION HONORS
BARRY L. WELLS & CLAUDETTE P. McGOWAN-WELLS
AT 15TH ANNUAL ‘HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS’ GALA**

*Saturday, November 18, 2006
7:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception
8:00 p.m. Dinner*

Temple Adath Yeshurun, 450 Kimber Road, Syracuse

Syracuse, NY - The Vera House Foundation will present its 15th annual “Home for the Holidays” Gala on Saturday, November 18, at Temple Adath Yeshurun in Syracuse. Special tribute will be paid to Honorary Chairs Barry L. Wells and Claudette P. McGowan-Wells for their commitment and support of Vera House.

Barry L. Wells is the Senior Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs at Syracuse University. He is a member of a number of professional associations including serving on the Board of the James E. Scott National Academy for Leadership & Executive Effectiveness. In addition to serving on the Board of Trustees of the Vera House Foundation since 2003, and serving as the honorary chair of Vera House's 2005 White Ribbon Campaign, he is also on the boards of Syracuse Stage, the Community Folk Art Center, the CNY Community Foundation, the Salvation Army, The Dunbar Association, and the Syracuse/Onondaga Drug & Alcohol Commission.

Claudette P. McGowan-Wells is a social worker at the Richard H. Hutchings Psychiatric Center in Syracuse. She also has a private practice specializing in family and child therapy sessions since 1985, and has held professional memberships in the National Association of Social Workers, Association of Black Social Workers, and as a Fellow in the Society of Certified Social Workers. She has also been active in community service as a member of the Syracuse chapter of the Links Inc. and as a past board member of the Society of Clinical Social Workers.

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“Home for the Holidays” is the annual gala sponsored by the Vera House Foundation Board of Trustees to benefit the programs and services of Vera House, Inc. Now in its 15th year, “Home for the Holidays” 2006 will bring together about 400 guests to celebrate the season and support the agency’s mission to end domestic and sexual violence.

The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with a cocktail hour followed by an elegant meal by Pascale. “It is a pleasure to be featuring the fine dining of Pascale catering,” said Deryn Pomeroy, Co-Chair of this year’s Gala. “Their creative cuisine, along with beautiful presentation, will be a highlight of the evening.”

The Mario DeSantis Band is providing the entertainment. “We are thrilled to feature the Mario DeSantis Band this year,” added Miesje Havens, Gala Co-Chair. “They perform an array of diverse live music, from jazz standards to today's hits, offering something to suit everyone’s musical taste.”

Tables of 10, as well as individual tickets, are available at both the patron and donor levels. Patron tickets are \$195 per person with tables of 10 costing \$1,950. Donor tickets cost \$150 per person, and tables of 10 are \$1,500. For more information or reservations, please calls Vera House’s Special Events Office at (315) 425-0818, or make your reservations securely online by visiting www.verahouse.org.

The Vera House Foundation was established in 1991 to support the programs and services of Vera House, Inc. Vera House works to end domestic and sexual violence in our community. The agency provides a 24-hour crisis, support and information line, and emergency shelter to ensure that women and children are safe from violence. Actively engaged in education and training in the community, Vera House offers counseling and advocacy services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as youth education programs. For more information about Vera House, please visit our web site at www.verahouse.org.

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