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News Release

Domestic Conflict Unit of Calgary Police Service to be Awarded Calgary's Bravest "Men" for 2009

Calgary, AB – November 17, 2009 – The Domestic Conflict Unit of the Calgary Police Service will be presented with the Calgary's Bravest Man Award at the annual event on Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, announced Calgary Counselling Centre today. This award recognizes a prominent leader – or in this case, leaders - in the community making a remarkable contribution to raising awareness of the issue of domestic abuse in Calgary.

"The Domestic Conflict Unit of the Calgary Police Service was an obvious choice for us," explains Robbie Babins-Wagner, CEO of Calgary Counselling Centre.

"The unit is celebrating its 10 year anniversary in 2009 and was developed to deal solely with domestic violence. Their goal is to reduce incidents of domestic conflict by providing an effective and sensitive response to the needs of the victims. We, at Calgary Counselling Centre, are inspired by the work they do and believe the Domestic Conflict Unit is influencing change by helping to reverse the destructive impact violence has on our community," says Babins-Wagner.

Award nominees are selected for their achievements in advocating for the prevention of domestic abuse by speaking publicly about the issue and committing to the cause by being involved in some initiative to end domestic abuse that has a Calgary focus. Candidates are openly opposed to domestic violence by their words and their actions. Previous honourees include former Chief Crown Prosecutor, Gordon Wong and former Mayor of Calgary, Al Duerr.

"The Calgary Police Service and the Domestic Conflict Unit are honoured by this recognition," commented Rick Hanson, Chief of the Calgary Police Service.

"The good work of these front line workers can so often go unnoticed, but these are the people who have to navigate in difficult, emotionally charged situations everyday. We are proud of their work and proud to be recognized as brave men and women as we work together to stop the cycle of abuse."

In 2008, in Calgary, police responded to 13,496 domestic violence calls. There is never a day when the police do not get called out to domestic incidents.¹

The Calgary's Bravest Man Award will be presented during *An Evening with Calgary's Bravest Men*, Calgary Counselling Centre's premiere fundraising event of the year. The evening gala event is part one of a two-part series of events focused on increasing the profile of the issue of domestic abuse in our community.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit calgarysbravestmen.ca or call the Centre at 403-265-4980.

¹ The Facts: Family Violence. Alliance to End Violence. www.endviolence.ca/resources-a-z-index. Nov. 12, 2009

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Calgary Counselling Centre is a registered charitable organization, and the leading research and knowledge-based counselling facility in Canada. Since 1962, the Centre has been committed to providing compassionate, professional and affordable counselling services that help build better lives for Calgarians through positive outcomes. Offering service in over 15 languages, the Centre is also a recognized leader in the treatment of family violence, depression, self esteem and eating disorders. Through its ongoing research and education programs, Calgary Counselling Centre strives to meet the changing needs of our community. The Centre's fee structure is based on income - no one is turned away for an inability to pay.

