



Oct. 30, 2007

News Release

**Calgary Counselling Centre gala opens Family Violence Prevention month
Thomas Roberts, former CNN co-anchor, to speak about domestic violence
on Nov. 1, 2007**

Calgary, AB – Oct. 30, 2007 – Twenty years after attempting suicide because of abuse he suffered as a youth, Emmy nominated journalist and former CNN co-anchor Thomas Roberts will help to start the many activities planned for Family Violence Prevention month in Calgary.

On Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007 at the Glencoe Club, Calgary's corporate leaders and partners attending *An Evening with Calgary's Bravest Men* will hear Roberts share his own perspective as a male victim of abuse and his struggle to speak up and fight for justice. Thomas Roberts will encourage Calgarians to stand up and lend their voices to the dialogue on domestic abuse and its destructive impact on our community.

A former co-anchor for "CNN Headline News", Roberts reported on ground-breaking events including America's "War on Terror" in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Hurricane Katrina. In 2005, Roberts bravely spoke up about his own experience with abuse in an exclusive two hour interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper program titled "Sins of the Father". It featured Robert's candid account of the abuse he endured by a mentor, beginning at the young age of 14. A compelling story of loneliness and repressive silence, Roberts' testimony held the attention of over a million viewers in a single night.

The second annual gala event is expanding to recognize a prominent local male leader who has made a remarkable contribution to raising awareness of the issue of domestic abuse in Calgary. The recipient of Calgary's Bravest Man Award will be presented at the *Bravest Men* event.

"Domestic abuse is everyone's problem", says Robbie Babins-Wagner, CEO, Calgary Counselling Centre. "Abuse does not discriminate against race or gender. It does not confine itself to one community. Only when we realize that everyone is affected by abuse, can we begin to take steps towards proactive change. *An Evening with Calgary's Bravest Men* is designed to encourage male community leaders to join the many women who stand at the front lines against domestic abuse."

Calgary Counselling Centre has been at the forefront of domestic abuse counselling and advocacy in the community for a quarter century. Over that time, there has been an increase in awareness of domestic abuse as a prevailing issue within the community, and growth in available counselling services for parties affected by domestic abuse. Proceeds from event ticket sales will support Calgary Counselling Centre's domestic abuse training bursary and Prairieaction Foundation's research initiatives to combat domestic abuse.

-30-

For more information or interviews with Thomas Roberts, please contact:

Stephanie Parsons, Marketing/Communications Assistant, Calgary Counselling Centre
(p) 403.691.5904 or (c) 403.542.0174 or (e) stephanie.parsons@calgarycounselling.com

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.

