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**News Release**

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## Former Calgary Mayor Al Duerr receives “Calgary’s Bravest Man” Award

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Calgary, AB – Nov. 1, 2007 – Calgary Counselling Centre honoured former Mayor Al Duerr for his remarkable work in the fight against domestic abuse at its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual gala, *An Evening with Calgary’s Bravest Men* this evening. Mr. Duerr was presented with the first *Calgary’s Bravest Man Award* for his efforts to bring the issue of abuse onto the political agenda beginning with the creation of the *Mayor’s Task Force on Community and Family Violence* in April 1990.

The *Calgary’s Bravest Man Award* recognizes a prominent male community leader who has made a remarkable contribution to raising awareness of the issue of domestic abuse in Calgary. 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 serving as a volunteer on domestic abuse prevention or related committees.

As the 2007 recipient, Duerr has exceeded these criteria through his exceptional work in creating the *Mayor’s Task Force*. The former Mayor was one of the first to recognize the need for a proactive community plan to fight the growing violence trends in Calgary. In 1991 the Task Force completed a report outlining 66 recommendations to prevent and fight against abuse. The Action Committee Against Violence (ACAV) – a collaboration of community organizations, agencies, and service providers – was formed soon after to implement the recommendations. In 2006 ACAC became the Alliance to End Violence, serving as a coordinating body designed to meet community needs through a fast delivery model.

Al Duerr’s dedication to domestic abuse awareness and prevention has led him to speak in front of schools and organizations about the importance of community involvement. It is his consistent commitment that makes him a Bravest Man in the fight against domestic abuse.

Over 160 of Calgary’s corporate leaders attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *An Evening with Calgary’s Bravest Men*. The Centre’s *Evening* kicks off November, Family Violence Prevention Month, inspiring Calgary’s bravest and most influential men, and their equally visionary partners, to stand up and contribute their voices to the dialogue on domestic abuse.

“It is time to appeal to the men in our lives to support and lead the cause” says Robbie Babins-Wagner, Calgary Counselling Centre CEO. “This year’s Bravest Man Award emphasizes the importance of male voices openly recognizing and talking about domestic abuse, and calls our leaders to action on a local level.”

Calgary Counselling Centre will begin accepting public nominations for the 2008 Calgary’s Bravest Man Award in the new year.

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### For more information and interviews, please contact:

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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.

