



Fort Bend County Women's Center

A United Way Agency

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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PHOTOGRAPHY JOINS THE FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN FORT BEND COUNTY

Photographer Greg Phelps begins work on fine art portraits featuring champions and supporters of the Fort Bend County Women's Center

September, 2007 (Sugar Land, TX) – In anticipation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, the Fort Bend County Women's Center has partnered with photographer and portrait artist Greg Phelps to create a portrait show featuring champions and supporters of the cause against domestic violence in Fort Bend County, Texas.

The portrait exhibit will be on display at several venues throughout the Fort Bend county area to raise awareness of domestic violence and encourage public support and volunteerism. The first unveiling will be at Vineyard on the Square in Sugar Land, Saturday, October 13 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Live music, door prizes, along with other activities will take place. The cost to attend the event will be \$40 a person. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Women's Center.

"As a fine art portrait photographer, I believe that I have a responsibility to use my skills to lift our community and play a role in enhancing our quality of life," said Phelps. "I've always wanted to help victims of domestic violence, and I decided to take action and start a conversation with the Fort Bend County Women's Center to see if I could do something to help. Together we came up with an awareness campaign that features the faces of those individuals who support and are touched by the Women's Center, in the hope that the public will identify with their stories as portrayed by my portraits and join their cause."

"We are delighted to have Greg Phelps' company as we prepare our Domestic Violence Awareness Month initiatives and get ready to bring in more supporters and volunteers," said Vita Rogers, Executive Director of the Fort Bend County Women's Center. "We were so impressed with Greg's portraits and his artistic vision. We can't think of a better way to highlight those individuals who support our cause and encourage others to join their efforts against domestic violence."

The Fort Bend County Women's Center has begun the process of selecting candidates for the portrait show, focusing on individuals who play a vital supporting role, as well as

survivors of domestic violence who have been touched by the organization. It is expected that thirty portraits will be featured in the show. In addition, the Women's Center is currently selecting venues, and retail businesses and other organizations are encouraged to contribute venue space for the exhibit.

To enhance the visual appeal of the portraits, Phelps will interview the chosen subjects about their motivation in supporting the Women's Center. The interview process will help Phelps identify the best place and setting for each portrait.

"My style of portrait photography is very much based on telling an individual's story that viewers can enjoy and at times identify with," explains Phelps. "I stay away from studio headshots and instead seek environments where my subjects live their lives. My portraits are investments in posterity, and my job is to bring out the ever-lasting details in people and their environment."

The portrait exhibit will also be on display at the Fort Bend Expo, Friday, October 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Domestic Violence Training Workshop, Thursday, October 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both events taking place at the Stafford Centre. To view all the sites where the portrait exhibit will be displayed log on to www.fortbendwomenscenter.org.

The Fort Bend County Women's Center assists survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. The organization provides free and confidential emergency shelter, counseling, crisis intervention, supportive services, and educational outreach. For more information, visit www.fortbendwomenscenter.org.

Greg Phelps is a Texas-based photographer who specializes in fine art portraiture. His style includes both conventional portraits as well as a high-concept form of composition in which his subjects are photographed in creative, dynamic environments that tell a story. Phelps has created similar shows to inspire and bring hope, including "Women Who Make a Difference" for the United Way, "Portrait of Survival" for the American Cancer Society, and "Hometown Heroes," Phelps' personal project depicting returning Houston heroes from Iraq. Visit Phelps at www.gjphelps.com.

For more information about the exhibit, upcoming events and Domestic Violence Month, contact Liz Moreno, Fort Bend County Women's Center, at 281.494.4545.

Photo Caption:

Greg Phelps with Gregory James Phelps Photography joins Anne Budill and Vita Rogers of the Women's Center in the fight against domestic violence.