



**Junior League of Northern Westchester**  
P.O. Box 229, Bedford, NY 10506

**The Northern Westchester Shelter, Inc.**  
P. O. Box 203 – Pleasantville, NY 10570

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**FOR IMMEDIATE JOINT RELEASE**  
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**Junior League of Northern Westchester Receives  
Northern Westchester Shelter's Annual  
Safe Haven Award**

*Bedford, NY* The Junior League of Northern Westchester (JLNW) was this year's recipient of the Northern Westchester Shelter's annual Safe Haven Award last Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at Elmwood Country Club in Greenburgh. The Safe Haven Award is presented to those who have demonstrated a commitment to helping victims of Domestic Violence. The award was presented to JLNW President Trina Fontaine of Armonk in a ceremony to recognize the League for its renovation of the agency's emergency shelter.

Executive Director of the Northern Westchester Shelter, CarLa Horton, opened with a lively "Welcome" to over one hundred attendees, including many of Westchester's prominent political and social figures. Ms. Horton stressed the importance of the Shelter and its programs, the truth about domestic violence - which cuts across race and class - and the urgency to break the cycle of violence in society via advocacy and the Shelter's Teen Program called STAR. In attendance were District Attorney Janet DiFiore, Senators Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Suzi Oppenheimer, Adam Bradley, and notable members of the National Organization of Women. Ms. Horton then introduced the Shelter's Residence Director, Penny Pepe, who presented Ms. Fontaine with the Safe Haven Award.

The Junior League of Northern Westchester, which has been serious about Domestic Violence for decades, established the Northern Westchester Shelter in 1980 and has provided women-power for fundraisers, governmental lobbying, and monetary grants to the Shelter since its inception. Recently, its members provided repairs, painting, furniture, carpets, window treatments, and kitchen counters to the Shelter. *"Our members are passionate about our relationship with the Shelter,"* Ms. Fontaine stated, *"and we've never forgotten the commitment we made 28 years ago"*. Ms. Fontaine then presented the award to the driving force behind the project, JLNW members: Anne Bentzen of Armonk, Shannon Rattner of Waccabuc, and Ali Flynn of Goldens Bridge. The shelter, which accommodated 142 people last year, was transformed into a warm and welcoming place for its residents.

The Emcee for the event was Dari Alexander, co-anchor of FOX 5's News at 6pm. Dari introduced guest speaker Lee Woodruff, co-author of *In An Instant*, a chronicle of her family's struggle after her husband journalist Bob Woodruff was injured while reporting in Iraq. Lee discussed the realities of traumatic brain injuries, timely medical intervention, and the lengthy healing process, many of which are prevalent in cases of domestic violence. Lee noted that through her family's journey to recovery, it was evident that victims need the love and support of friends and family to heal. And that in the darkest of days, comfort and strength can be found. With this book, the Woodruffs hope "to inspire and help other families, to find their own strength to rise to challenges, crises, and tragedies if their lives are upended - **in an instant.**"

The reception began at 11a.m., with tables set with Angel magnets lovingly made by the Shelter's children and adult residents. A shopping boutique featuring vendors of jewelry, accessories, designer handbags, scarves and ponchos, hand-painted wooden bowls, and monogrammed gifts offered guests an early opportunity for holiday shopping. The Luncheon began at Noon, followed by the awards ceremony. A portion of the proceeds from the boutique will benefit The Northern Westchester Shelter, which provides shelter and services for victims of domestic violence.

The Northern Westchester Shelter is a non-profit organization that has helped victims of Domestic Violence since 1980. Services include emergency shelter, 24-hour hotline, counseling, support groups, legal services, counseling and support groups for children, and an award-winning teen peer leadership program, STAR. Their services are free, confidential, and offered in English and in Spanish. For more information about the Shelter, please call 914-747-0828. For the 24-hour Shelter hotline service, please call 914-238-2800.

The Junior League of Northern Westchester is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. New members are always welcome. For further information about the League, please call 914-234-4714, or see our website: [www.jlnw.org](http://www.jlnw.org).

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