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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Houston Area Women's Center Announces 2012 Board Chair and New Members

The Houston Area Women's Center anticipates a productive thirty-fifth anniversary year as Diana M. Hudson (Partner, Andrews Kurth LLP), takes the helm as board chair. With six new members joining the board in 2012, Hudson will lead an accomplished and diverse assembly of twenty-eight professionals and community leaders who are committed to providing guidance, leadership and resources to support the Center's mission. A longtime supporter of the Houston Area Women's Center, Board Chair Diana M. Hudson acknowledged, "I'm looking forward to working with a great group of leaders to help maintain and strengthen the Houston Area Women's Center's operations. We are pleased to be celebrating the Center's 35th year and hope to build an even stronger organization that will be here until domestic and sexual violence are history."

In addition to new leadership, the Center's Board of Directors includes six new members:

Caressa Hughes (Managing-Director of Government Relations, Service Corporation International);
Kelly Rose (Partner, Baker Botts LLP);
Debra Runge (Vice President of Human Resources, SunAmerica Financial Group);
Mark C. Schroeder (Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Pipeline, CenterPoint Energy);
Jeanne ("J.J.") Spedale (Dermatologist, Nigro Dermatology Group, P.A.); and
Megan Gostola (Board Fellow, Candidate for MBA degree at Rice University, Jones Graduate School of Business).

Houston Area Women's Center President and CEO **Rebecca White** stated, "The Women's Center is extremely fortunate to have the leadership and support of an outstanding board of directors. The addition of these six talented and committed individuals makes our already great board even greater."

Hudson will work closely with the 2012 Executive Committee, including Immediate Past Chair **Shawn Raymond** (Partner, Susman Godfrey LLP); Vice Chair of Finance **Carrie G. Potter** (Owner and President, The Carrie Potter Group, LLC); Vice Chair of Marketing and Development **Robert A. Peiser** (Vice Chairman, Signature Group Holdings); Vice Chair of Nominations **Genora Kendrick Boykins** (Regional Asst. General Counsel, Reliant Energy Inc.); Secretary **Sandra Ramirez Aultman** (Head of Secured Upstream Finance, The Royal Bank of Scotland's North American Energy Finance Group); and Director-At-Large **Elaine Makris Williams** (Founder and Principal, MS Legal Search, L.L.C.).

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The Houston Area Women's Center helps individuals affected by domestic and sexual violence in their efforts to move their lives forward. We provide shelter, counseling and advocacy to support them in building lives free from the effects of violence. We seek social change to end domestic and sexual violence through community awareness and education. Our services are confidential and available to everyone.



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Funding by Harris County Community Services Department