



MARIN SERVICES for Women

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Marin Services for Women Announces 2005 Annual Benefit Dinner

-- MSW Honors Keynote Speaker Carrie Fisher with 2005 Founders' Award --

GREENBRAE, CA., AUGUST 15, 2005 – Marin Services for Women (MSW), the only non-profit agency in Marin County established to provide a full continuum of alcohol and drug treatment programs specifically designed for women and their families, announced today that their 2005 Annual Benefit Dinner will take place on Thursday, September 29, 2005, at the Embassy Suites in San Rafael. The sponsors' private reception is from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.; the dinner is from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

The dinner, themed "Weaving the Vision: Together We Build a Healing Community," will feature Actor/Author/Raconteur Carrie Fisher as keynote speaker. Ms. Fisher will receive the 2005 MSW Founders Award, which honors women who have shared their recovery experiences openly and honestly, and who serve as role models of survival, strength and empowerment for other women.

Ms. Fisher is best known for her role as Princess Leia in *Star Wars* and the smash sequels *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*. She went on to become a literary sensation with her New York Times best selling novel, *Postcards From The Edge*. Poignant, painful, excruciatingly funny, Carrie Fisher's best seller is a survivor's tale about the horrors of addiction

and hollows of Hollywood life. If perhaps she can be said to present a common message, it can only be that, while hard times or even tragedy may inevitably strike many of us, through humor and true friends we can not only survive but also thrive.

MSW's Annual Benefit Dinner recognizes and celebrates the 16th annual observance of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, part of a national initiative supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Activities throughout September celebrate individuals in recovery from substance use disorders, and their families, and publicizes the need for better access to treatment and recovery support services. "It's important that as a community we work toward providing people with the recovery services they need, despite social or economic circumstances. Once in recovery, people are able to build self esteem, and become empowered to maintain steady employment obtain stable housing, and sustain healthy relationships ," says MSW Executive Director Ann Harrison. "This strengthens the fabric of our community as a whole. We all benefit from each individual's recovery."

Entertainment at the Benefit Dinner will be provided by Copper Wimmin, a three-woman a cappella ensemble. The music of Copper Wimmin is a healing force, calling for awareness of our world and a desire to transform it. Their lyrics reflect diverse influences, tastes and talents, with their voices creating a sound that is unparalleled in current folk and popular music.

Early event sponsors include SBC, Marin Independent Journal, Nancy Rubin and Jimmy Loyce, Katherine Crecelius and Mark Agnew, Comcast and Greenpoint Mortgage.

Individual dinner tickets are \$125 and Special Friend tickets are \$250, which includes recognition in the program. Sponsorships opportunities are also available. For more information

about reservations and sponsorships, please go to the Marin Services for Women's Website at www.marinservicesforwomen.org or call (415) 924-5995.

For over 25 years, Marin Services for Women has advanced community health by providing a full continuum of superior quality chemical dependency recovery services for women and families in Marin County. MSW's philosophy links recovery from addiction with relational, social and economic empowerment. MSW is dedicated to meeting the community's need to understand the nature, treatment and prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse.

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