



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Safe Shores - The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center Executive Director Receives National Recognition

WASHINGTON, D.C. --- The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced Michele Booth Cole, executive director of Safe Shores - The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center as one of the awardees for the 2007 Commissioner's Award in Portland, Oregon during their 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. This award recognizes those who, through their hard work and dedication, have made outstanding contributions toward the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

Cole has served as the executive director of Safe Shores - The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center since June 2003. Safe Shores is a direct service, 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that coordinates the investigation of child abuse cases in the District of Columbia through a multidisciplinary team approach. A graduate of Harvard-Radcliffe College and Georgetown University Law Center, Cole has dedicated her career to making a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable children. "Michele's leadership and commitment have led to significant strides toward improving the multiple systems that serve abused and neglected children," said Sandra L. Merin, President of Safe Shores' Board of Directors. "She is passionate about this work and a champion for bringing others together to enhance their knowledge and skills to be an effective multidisciplinary team."

All individuals recognized to receive this award have demonstrated a strong personal commitment to ensuring the safety and well being of children and to supporting and strengthening our nation's families. Awardees come from across the many disciplines involved in preventing and responding to child maltreatment. They represent the fields of social work, education, mental health, health, law enforcement, and the judiciary as well as faith and community organizations. "I am honored to be recognized among so many distinguished professionals who are working to improve the overall well-being of children," stated Michele Booth Cole. "This award reflects the superb teamwork of Safe Shores' staff and the other agencies that make up D.C.'s Multidisciplinary Team. Keeping the issue of child abuse in the forefront is imperative, and during Child Abuse Prevention Month we remind our communities that everyone has a responsibility for protecting our children and renewing our commitment."

Additional resources on child abuse and neglect are available from the Safe Shores - The D.C. Child Advocacy Center website at: www.safeshores.org

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Safe Shores - The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center is a direct service nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and working directly with child victims of sexual and physical abuse in the District of Columbia.