



Community Matters Donates \$175,000 to Safe Alliance *Culmination of Year-Two Activities in Support of our First Charity Partner*

Community Matters presented a check for \$175,000 to Safe Alliance at its Second Annual Celebration Dinner in November, capping two years of volunteer and fund-raising support for the crisis intervention and counseling agency.

The presentation holds special significance for Community Matters members as it was at a Safe Alliance fund-raiser that the idea for our organization was born.

"What an incredible two-year partnership this has been," said Community Matters steering committee member Tom Lott. "I don't think Community Matters would have been as successful without the initial connection to Safe Alliance and its mission of hope and healing for people in crisis. Safe Alliance's work resonated with our members, leading us to join together to help end domestic violence in Charlotte.

"Thanks to everyone who has given of themselves to make Community Matters what it is today. Together, we have contributed a two-year total of \$375,000 to Safe Alliance, while donating more than 20,000 hours of volunteer service."



Presenting the \$175,000 check to Safe Alliance President & CEO Phil Kline, right, were Community Matters board members Steve DeCarlo, AmWINS; Angela Matherly, Snyder's-Lance; and John Tighe, Arrowpoint Capital.



John Tighe starts the bidding on one of the biggest hits at our Celebration Dinner auction -- a beautiful quilt made by Arrowpoint Capital's Patti Faber from our Dodgeball Tournament team T-shirts. There was even enough T-shirt material left over for Patti (holding the quilt on the right) to make 30 pillows for the Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center's breast cancer program. Holding the quilt with Patti is Cheryl Kitchen, who has also helped organize the donation of almost 100 handmade quilts to Safe Alliance programs. Great work Patti and Cheryl. And congratulations to AmWINS on winning the quilt.

A Note of Thanks from Safe Alliance President & CEO Phil Kline



I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Community Matters: Insurance Partners of Charlotte for a remarkable 24 months of caring and support for our mission at Safe Alliance. On November 4, 2013, Community Matters presented us with a check for \$175,000.00. Not only has this committed group of insurance professionals raised substantial funds to sustain our programs and services across our geographic footprint, but they have also engaged in more than 20,000 hours of volunteer service with us these past two years. <http://www.safealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/CM-Check.jpg>

We are deeply honored that Community Matters selected Safe Alliance as its first charity partner. It is a partnership exemplified by caring for people in crisis. Community Matters answered the call when we ran low on supplies such as diapers, blankets, quilts and pillows. They served more than 50 dinners to our clients – and made arrangements to treat them to ball games and summer camp. That kind of caring is a source of hope and inspiration to people in crisis. And for that we are forever grateful. Our sincere best wishes to Community Matters as it adopts Crisis Assistance Ministry and Charlotte Family Housing as its new charity partners.

'100 Days of Meals' Continues Through Year-End

Our '100 Days of Meals' partnership with the Safe Alliance Domestic Violence Shelter runs through December 31 -- so there's still time to sign up! We continue to need your help to provide dinner for Shelter guests. What a great way for your company, family, or group to show what the holiday season is all about. To sign up, link to <http://www.communitymatterscharlotte.org/100daysofmeals.html>. Community Matters companies have already taken four nights in December -- and we want to fill up as many dates as possible. Thanks to everyone for your support of this great initiative this year.



This team from Travelers, shown with Shelter Kitchen Manager Victoria Robinson, left, is among the most recent Community Matters groups to prepare dinner for guests at the SafeAlliance Shelter through '100 Days of Meals.'

Safe Alliance Opportunities for December: The Jingle Bell Bash and the Holiday Store

There is still time for Community Matters members to join with Safe Alliance this weekend for the Jingle Bell Bash (Saturday, December 7). Labeled a "Can't Miss" holiday party by the local media, the Jingle Bell Bash is a fitting occasion to celebrate all that we have accomplished together to advance our mission of providing hope and healing to people in crisis. Together, we have much to celebrate. It's been a year now since our charity partner changed its name to Safe Alliance, a brand that has been well-received by friends, clients and benefactors. And come this January, the 80-bed Clyde and Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter will recognize its first anniversary as a critical community asset providing sanctuary to hundreds of women and children transitioning from violent environments to safety. If you would like to join Safe Alliance this Saturday evening for a terrific holiday celebration at the Wells Fargo Atrium in uptown Charlotte, please visit this link for details and to purchase tickets: <http://www.safealliance.org/jingle-bell-bash>

And if you are in the giving mood, there is still time to donate clothing and gifts to the Safe Alliance Holiday Store. Each December, Safe Alliance creates a special Holiday Store for clients and their families who have been impacted by intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child abuse, homicide and/or other violent crimes during the past year. These families have survived a very difficult time and are striving to create a healthy life in a safe environment. Safe Alliance's desire is to fill the Holiday Store with new toys and gifts generously donated by individuals,

families, associations, churches and businesses in our community. Clients and their children spend a few hours “shopping” in the store for holiday presents for one another – the mom’s shop for their children and the children shop for their moms. All of the items in the store are free to clients and their children. If you would like to help, check out this link:

<http://www.safealliance.org/holiday-store/>

Gearing Up for 2014 with Our New Partners

We’re already meeting with our new charity partners -- Crisis Assistance Ministry and Charlotte Family Housing -- about activities for next year and look forward to updating you on our plans over the next few weeks. In the interim, check out their websites (listed below) as well as their Facebook pages so you can learn more about their work in the Charlotte community. And if you have any ideas about ways to help out, we’d love to hear from you. Simply email info@communitymatterscharlotte.org.

<http://www.crisisassistance.org>

<http://charlottefamilyhousing.org>