



Media Contact:
Pam Nourse
Director of Institutional Advancement
Germaine Lawrence, Inc.
781-859-1233
pnourse@germainelawrence.org

**Germaine Lawrence Inc. Pays Tribute to “Women of Excellence” and “Rising Stars” -
First Lady Diane Patrick among honorees**

Arlington, Mass. (October 15, 2007) Germaine Lawrence Inc, a residential treatment center for adolescent girls, today announced the winners of their annual Women of Excellence and Rising Star Awards. Among Women of Excellence honorees are Diane Patrick, First Lady of Massachusetts, Razia Jan, an Afghan native who has made extraordinary efforts to help struggling children in Afghanistan, and Barbara Talkov, executive director of the Children's League of Massachusetts, a statewide association of more than 60 private and public organizations working together to improve public policies affecting children, youth and their families. These women have all shown outstanding commitment and dedication to advancing programs to help young women.

The Rising Star honorees recognize the accomplishments of women in their 30s or younger who have displayed leadership and accomplishment in the social service fields. They are Louise Davis, cofounder of the Peer Health Exchange who currently serves as the executive director, and Kerry Brady Seitz, the project coordinator of the Teen Prostitution Prevention Project

“All of our honorees are extraordinary women with remarkable insight and character,” said Executive Director David Hirshberg. “They embody the essence of this award and their dynamic contributions will add to advancing the well-being of girls and young women.”

The award winners will be honored at a breakfast event on:

November 7, 2007
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.
The Harvard Club
374 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

About Germaine Lawrence

The mission of Germaine Lawrence is to provide adolescent girls the highest quality residential treatment services with the goal of strengthening their relationships with their families and preparing them for productive, independent lives.

Further, it is the mission to design, implement, and disseminate treatment approaches that define new standards of excellence in the field, and through this leadership to improve the quality of care available to troubled adolescent girls. www.germainelawrence.org

2007 Women of Excellence Honorees

Diane Patrick

First Lady of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Diane Patrick has an impressive record of distinguished professional and public service. A lawyer, teacher, and mother, Mrs. Patrick has dedicated herself to various causes. She has served as a volunteer member of the Commonwealth's Foster Care Review Unit, President of the Board of the Brookline Infant Toddler Center, Trustee and Director for Arts Boston, Trustee for the Brigham & Women's Hospital, and Overseer at Children's Hospital Boston, among others. She will work closely with the Governor to focus attention on early childhood education and domestic violence issues.

Razia Jan

Razia Jan of Marshfield, Mass. proves that one person can make a huge difference in the lives of many. Razia came to the United States 37 years ago from Afghanistan and has made extraordinary efforts to help struggling children in Afghanistan. As part of the US-led Operation Shoe Fly, she collected and sent more than 30,000 pairs of shoes to orphanages in her native country. After the overthrow of the Taliban, Razia recognized the need for a new school building in Kabul specifically to educate young girls. She is raising the funds necessary to build The Zabuli School, a school for girls who have previously been denied educational opportunities.

Barbara Talkov

Barbara Talkov, of Gloucester, Mass. has more than 25 years experience working with, and on behalf of, children and their families. She is currently the Executive Director of the Children's League of Massachusetts, a statewide association of more than 60 private and public organizations working together to improve public policies affecting children, youth and their families. CLM is one of the most influential voices for children and families on Beacon Hill, and has been successful in advocating for essential services for children and families in the Commonwealth.

2007 Rising Stars

Louise Davis

As a student at Yale University, Louise Davis co-founded Peer Health Exchange and currently serves as its Executive Director. PHE works with high schools that lack health education and in which the majority of the students live at or below the poverty level. PHE recruits, selects, and trains college student volunteers to teach high school students a comprehensive health curriculum. By applying outside of the classroom the skills they learn in PHE workshops, high school students can make informed decisions that will help them stay and excel in school, join and remain part of the workforce, and become healthy adults capable of producing healthy families.

Kerry Brady Seitz

Kerry Brady Seitz, originally of Andover, Mass. presently residing in Winchester, Mass. is the Project Coordinator of the Teen Prostitution Prevention Project, a ground breaking partnership of law enforcement agencies, social service providers, and other organizations that have joined together to help girls exploited through prostitution. Partnering in this effort are more than 30 community-based and government agencies. In its first two years, TPPP identified and aided over 100 exploited girls and trained over 200 multi-agency professionals, increasing the capacity to empower girls to leave the street and to target those who exploit them.