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## **The New York Women's Foundation Urges Bloomberg to Remember the Survivors**

### CITYWIDE GROUPS FOR WOMEN JOIN IN FOUNDATION'S REFRAIN

The New York Women's Foundation is proud to announce that they are once again amplifying the voices of low-income women and girls in New York City by hosting their 4th annual Public Forum. This year, magazine industry trailblazer and forum keynote speaker Marcia Ann Gillespie will lead the Women's Foundation's cry for safe, affordable housing for domestic violence survivors. The forum will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2003 at the New School University (Tishman Auditorium, 66 West 12th St., between 5th and 6th Avenues) from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The New York Women's Foundation, in an effort to promote "women helping women," has assembled an impressive group of key figures in the city along with noted philanthropist and president of the Women's Foundation Abigail Disney to discuss the issues facing domestic violence survivors as they negotiate the web of bureaucracies and seek better and safer conditions, particularly housing, for themselves and their families.

"In a recent study conducted by the US Conference of Mayors, over half of the homeless families identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness. This is a disturbing statistic that we need to address," stated Miriam Buhl, The New York Women's Foundation Executive Director. Panelists Jill Stein, HousingLink Coordinator of New Destiny Housing Corporation, Grace Perez, Executive Director of Violence Intervention, Tracey Little, Voices of Women Organizing Project member, Alisa Del Tufo, Co-Director of the Family Violence Project at the Urban Justice Center, and Sharon Stapel, Legal Aid Attorney will explore the lack of safe and affordable housing in New York City – and explore solutions and unique models to assist families in need.

"Painful, pervasive, personal -- the tyranny of domestic violence cuts across ethnic and economic lines but all too often it is low-income and women of color who face the biggest hurdles in securing safe haven," explained Marcia Ann Gillespie.

“And we as a community are challenged to safeguard our most vulnerable sisters by addressing this pressing need, as we struggle to end the tyranny.

The Forum is presented by The New York Women’s Foundation the only public foundation exclusively devoted to providing grants to New York City’s women-run community groups helping low-income women and girls achieve economic security in conjunction with the Non-Profit Management Program at the New School University’s Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy, the Women’s Funders Group, and the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers.

“It has been the experience of the Foundation's domestic violence grantees that time and again the lack of safe and affordable housing is the pre-eminent obstacle to a woman's achieving full physical and emotional safety,” said Abigail Disney. “So daunting is the problem that very often the mere idea of housing prevents women from reaching out for help. So complicated and contradictory are the systems that currently serve these women, that very often these women and their children are driven back to their abusers by the unavoidable specter of homelessness.”

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