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PORTRAIT OF ABUSE: AN AMERICAN EPIDEMIC
AMS premieres domestic violence documentary at Facing Family Violence Conference

Dallas, TX— The story of domestic violence is a familiar one to a shocking number of women, but it will be told in a gripping way in the new documentary *Portrait of Abuse: An American Epidemic*. Dallas' AMS Production Group will release the report in High Definition video in time for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

The film is a compelling look at abuse through a variety of perspectives. It features interviews with victims, abusers, doctors, nurses, shelter care advocates, social workers and prosecutors and showcases successful approaches to keep women safe and restore their dignity. The film premieres at the upcoming Facing Family Violence Conference on Friday, Oct. 19 at 1:45 pm at the Collin College Conference Center in Plano and is open to conference attendees and the general public. The DVDs will be sold at the event, with a portion to benefit the Collin County Council on Family Violence, which is an initiative of the Junior League of Plano.

When asked why AMS is involved in such a serious topic, Executive Producer Mark McGovern responded, "Domestic violence is truly at an epidemic level in this country. Our hope is that we can raise awareness and get people talking about what has been hidden for so long." Award-winning director Sara Ivey says, "We interview women from all social strata. Domestic violence happens behind closed doors in mansions and tiny apartments. *Portrait of Abuse* gives many people the chance to break the silence and scream 'enough is enough.'"

One of the film's interviewees is Glenda Freeman, a former Dallas resident and now a California based artist. Freeman says, "I hope for women to understand that it's not their fault, it is a learning experience, and it's not the end of the world. In order to grow, you must do away with the past." McGovern says, "We're extremely grateful to the many women who have come forward to tell their story in this piece. Their courage can make a world of difference to the millions of families who are still too afraid or don't know how to get away from the pain."

In addition to *Portrait of Abuse*, AMS will release *Black History Uncovered* - a series of four untold stories from African American History; *Bodacious Boots* - a high spirited ode to the art and fashion of the cowboy boot; and *Stop the Presses* about the decline of American print journalism. AMS produced the award winning documentaries *Shock* and *Rising from the Rails*.

For more information on the film or to request an interview, please contact Tammy Nguyen Lee via phone at 214.646.9309 or visit www.PortraitofAbuse.com

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