

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Long-Time House Of Ruth Leader Carole Alexander Resigns

-- House Of Ruth Maryland's leader, Carole Alexander, steps aside after more than 25-years of service and advocacy for victims of domestic violence --

Baltimore, Md. – November 9, 2009 – Carole Alexander, executive director of House Of Ruth Maryland, has resigned from one of the nation's largest domestic violence centers. Alexander stepped aside from her post after more than a quarter century of leading Maryland's fight to end domestic violence. House Of Ruth Maryland hopes that Alexander will continue her involvement with the agency to focus more intently on key matters including advocacy for systems' change and building and strengthening community relationships.

"Carole Alexander has been the heart, soul and face of House Of Ruth Maryland for more than 25 years," said Holly Edington, president of the organization's board of directors. "She is a passionate and tireless advocate for domestic violence victims and her leadership has established House Of Ruth Maryland as a leading domestic violence organization whose advocacy, training, public education, and prevention initiatives are groundbreaking models for programs nationwide. While Carole is stepping aside as executive director, the Board will look forward to having her remain involved in a key advocacy role where she is an unmatched force."

In a letter to supporters of House Of Ruth, Edington stated, "Be assured that both Carole and the Board of the House Of Ruth Maryland are committed to the seamless evolution of the organization's leadership and the retention of its strong presence in this community ... It is our hope that the next 25 years of House Of Ruth Maryland leadership can build on Carole's quarter century of service and move us close to the shared vision that, one day, every woman in Maryland can be safe in her own home.

Since joining House Of Ruth as executive director in 1983, Alexander has overseen the agency's transformation from a small shelter on Calvert Street to one of the most comprehensive domestic violence programs in the country. The organization now serves more than 13,000 victims and their families each year and boasts a staff that is nationally recognized for its leadership in the field of victim advocacy and service.

In a statement, Alexander said, "I am very thankful for House Of Ruth's staff, board of directors, advisory board, battered women and their families, volunteers and thousands of you in the community who have been unflinching in your support of the House's work to end the violence against women and children ... you are the bravest people I will ever know. Thank you for standing up for the tens of thousands of victims the House has served, and often helped to save.

Over the past year, the board of directors and I have had extensive conversations about the need to plan for the House's future. We have begun to realign our structure to advance crucial strategic goals. The focus of the future must be on those goals: sustainability, reaching more victims, preventing the horrifying cycle of violence and continuing to press for systemic change.

The House, what it stands for, and what it must stand up for, as it ascends into the future is about all of us and whether we are really serious in our commitment to stop the assaults – the torture, beatings and murder of women and children. And it will take all of us to stop this violence.

For 26 years, I have fought to give voice and rights to battered women and their children. I remain committed to the House's mission. I will continue to fight for it's future and for the victims of domestic violence across our state and our nation."

During her tenure, Alexander directed House Of Ruth in several expansion efforts including leading the Campaign for Shelter and Services, that raised more than \$10 million dollars for capital and endowment; she oversaw the rehabilitation and construction of two new shelters and a transitional housing program that today serves 84 women and children. Alexander launched the Marjorie Cook Domestic Violence Legal Clinic that provides legal services to victims across Maryland and oversaw significant geographic and programmatic expansion of services, prevention initiatives and awareness campaigns that have challenged and changed attitudes, beliefs and behavior. Alexander oversaw the release of a dozen women after the House and the Public Justice Center undertook a Clemency project leading to the pardon of the women, who had acted to defend themselves against their abuser.

Often outspoken and sometimes controversial, Alexander has challenged the powerful on behalf of the powerless. She is unwavering in her fight to give voice and rights to battered women and their families. Alexander's leadership and calculated risk-taking put the House Of Ruth Maryland at the forefront of cutting-edge advocacy, positioned it as the premier domestic violence agency in Maryland and as a nationally recognized model across the United States.

Edington stated that a Board-appointed committee is overseeing the national search to find Alexander's successor. Meanwhile, Alexander is working to transition her responsibilities to Sandi Timmins, who was appointed by the Board to the role of interim executive director.

Timmins has 27 years of experience managing and restructuring organizations and departments – in both corporate and non-profit – as employee and contracted. For the past eight years she has work directly with Carole Alexander and House Of Ruth Maryland to put in place performance and quality measures, improved processes to be more efficient in order to serve clients more effectively, and she was an integral part of creating the centralized Contact Center, making it easier for clients to receive immediate help. For the past eight months she has served as House Of Ruth's interim COO.

House Of Ruth Maryland has more than 100 employees in offices in Baltimore City, Montgomery County, Anne Arundel County, and Prince George's County. In 2009 the staff, volunteers, and supporters of House Of Ruth Maryland helped protect and provide support services necessary to rebuild the lives of more than 13,000 victims of domestic violence and their families through a range of services, broadly including: children and youth services, a 24-hour Hotline, shelter, community advocacy, legal clinic, counseling and education and training.

About House Of Ruth Maryland

House Of Ruth Maryland is the non-profit organization that provides the most comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence in the state of Maryland. House Of Ruth Maryland leads the fight to end domestic violence against women and their children by confronting attitudes, behaviors and systems that perpetuate it, and by providing victims with the services necessary to rebuild their lives safely and free of fear. Since its founding in 1977, House Of Ruth Maryland has helped more than 100,000 victims through its shelter, 24-hour hotline, counseling, outreach, training and legal services. www.hruth.org

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