

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Leadership Loveland and Loveland Habitat Partner with Alternatives to Violence to Build Loveland's First Safehouse**

**Loveland, Colo.** – Alternatives to Violence (ATV) a Loveland based non-profit organization, is slated to break ground on Loveland's first emergency safehouse in Southern Larimer County in the spring of 2012. This significant project is comprised of a partnership between ATV, Loveland Habitat for Humanity and the 2011-2012 Leadership Loveland class.

The ATV safehouse will serve as a refuge for Northern Colorado women and children to escape abuse and rebuild their lives. The 10,500 square foot safehouse will provide a place of hope and healing for more than 300 citizens within Loveland each year. In addition to eight bedrooms and bathrooms, the safehouse will have a community kitchen, dining area, meeting room, play room and basement offices for counselors and office staff. One bedroom in the safehouse will be set aside for a senior woman over 60 years old.

Despite having shelters in neighboring towns, relocating survivors of domestic violence isolates them from their community and what support they might have from family, friends or their church. This problem is often compounded by a lack of transportation as women fleeing abusive situations often must leave everything, including cars, behind. The need for a safehouse in Loveland is evident in the 28 percent increase in ATV clients so far this year.

The ATV safehouse project will be the first safehouse built in the state of Colorado by Habitat for Humanity. Loveland Habitat for Humanity is committed to this project and will provide their expertise by helping ATV staff schedule volunteers, hire a volunteer coordinator for the construction project manager and help organize a Blitz Build. In addition, Loveland Habitat for Humanity has provided ATV access to their vendors thus helping with discounted materials helping to reduce costs substantially.

The Leadership Loveland class, supported as a program through the Loveland Chamber of Commerce, has chosen the ATV safehouse as their class project. Because the safehouse is being built largely by donations, Leadership Loveland participants will raise \$1,000 each for the safehouse as well as serve on specific safehouse committees into the summer of 2012. Those committees range from marketing to the actual building and design of the safehouse.

"The ATV Board, staff and volunteers are so pleased and grateful for the support and expertise of Leadership Loveland and their support of ATV and the families we serve. We thank you on their behalf," said Lynda Nielsen, executive director of ATV.

ATV has dedicated resources to Loveland for 29 years providing crisis response and case management for those who have been victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault and other violent crimes. In 2010 alone, Alternatives to Violence provided 18,615 nights of safe shelter in their transitional and scattered sites housing programs in Southern Larimer County.

Join Leadership Loveland and ATV in helping support victim services and a future safehouse; for more information or to donate to the Alternative to Violence agency or safehouse project visit [www.alternativestoviolence.org](http://www.alternativestoviolence.org).

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**About Alternatives to Violence**

Alternatives to Violence is a non-profit organization that serves Southern Larimer County as victim's rights advocates. We service any victim of violent crime and specialize in domestic violence and sexual assault. Alternatives to Violence is committed to intervention in, education about, and prevention of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes through counseling, advocacy, outreach, and transitional housing.

**About Loveland Habitat for Humanity**

Loveland Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit housing ministry that displays the care of Jesus Christ to people from all walks of life regardless of faith. The organization helps build simple, decent and affordable homes with people in need, while striving to make affordable housing a matter of conscience throughout the Loveland area and around the world. Loveland Habitat will celebrate the construction of its 100<sup>th</sup> home this fall during a Build-A-Thon from September 21 to 24 in its new subdivision, Willow Park.

**About Leadership Loveland**

Leadership Loveland, a program of the Loveland Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by McKee Medical Center, is designed to develop emerging leaders in order to supplement and encourage high quality local leadership. Through the involvement of business, civic and community leaders, the Leadership Loveland program addresses these basic goals: Identify, motivate and develop community leaders; assist future leaders in identifying issues and problems facing the community and to develop possible solutions to these problems and provide program participants with the opportunity to meet current leaders and to challenge both groups to greater community involvement. For more information on the program, please call (970) 667-6311 or visit [www.loveland.org/LeadershipLoveland](http://www.loveland.org/LeadershipLoveland).