

ALEXANDRIA, VA., MARCH 5, 2009 – Bethany House of Northern Virginia, Inc., [www.bhmv.org](http://www.bhmv.org), a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization assisting victims of domestic abuse in the Greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area for more than 25 years, is requesting donations for small gift bags as part of their Women’s Day Event on April 30, 2009. Bethany House would like to provide these gifts for the women victims of domestic abuse to brighten their day.

Cathy Hassinger, Executive Director of Bethany House, explains the women have survived the devastating effects of domestic violence and are in the process of rebuilding their lives. The purpose of the Women’s Day Event is to celebrate their strength, hope and beauty. Cathy Hassinger said, “The vast majority of our clients escaped their violent home situations with only a handful of belongings. We want to provide gift bags for the women with items to make them feel special.” Donations of new coffee mugs, tea, perfume, manicure kits, lip gloss, and journals would be much appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at the administrative office of Bethany House at 6121 Lincolnia Road, Suite 303, Alexandria, VA 22312. Those who would like to give financial contributions may mail them to the administrative office or visit Bethany House’s website at [www.bhmv.org](http://www.bhmv.org) and make a donation online using a credit card.

Bethany House is always appreciative of donations to their thrift shop, Joseph’s Coat, located at 3022 Annandale Road, Falls Church, Virginia. The following items are needed for the thrift shop: clothing, gently-used household goods, furniture, lamps, pictures, beds, toys, games, books, etc. Some items are given directly to clients and other items are sold and the proceeds provide financial support to the shelters and transitional units. Please call 703-538-6289 if you would like to have a local donation of furniture or household items picked up.

“We are so grateful for donations – no matter how small”, said Cathy Hassinger. “We are seeing more incidents of domestic abuse as families struggle with financial stress in today’s economy and every donation helps us to provide essential services and assistance to victims.”