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## ***Partners for Change* Recognize Champions in the Fight Against Sexual Assault**

**(San Antonio, TX)** – Four *Partners for Change*, representing San Antonio, Texas and the nation, will be honored at a special benefit event **Thursday, September 17, 2009**, benefiting The Rape Crisis Center (a nonprofit organization), the event features a presentation of the third annual *Partners for Change* awards at Pearl Stable in San Antonio with honorary chairwoman, **First Lady Anita Perry**. The event will be held at Pearl Stable, 312 Pearl Parkway, San Antonio, beginning at 6 p.m. with a reception; dinner and entertainment to follow the awards ceremony.

Every 2 ½ minutes, someone in America is sexually assaulted. In Texas alone, 1 in 5 women, and 1 in 20 men are victims of sexual assault, resulting in more than 2 million sexual assault survivors. Education, prosecution and victim services all play an integral role in the fight to end sexual abuse and each *Partners for Change* award recipient has made a valuable contribution to this fight. According to President & CEO M. Lynn Blanco, “Our honorees are remarkable, visionary leaders who have both a passion and will for helping victims and our community.”

### Event Honorees

**The Forensic Nurse Examiner programs** at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa and Methodist Specialty and Transplant hospitals are our honored heroes. Forensic Nurse Examiners, along with RCC advocates and chaplains, provide help, hope, healing, for thousands of families and individuals who have been victims of sexual violence.

**Honorable Susan Reed**, the first woman district attorney for Bexar County has been a champion for victims and a crucial supporter of the The Center’s 24-hour hotline. She remains an outspoken advocate both within and outside her office for those who find themselves victims of crime.

**Texas State Senator Leticia Van de Putte**, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of sexual assault victims during her past four terms representing San Antonio. During the past legislation session, Senator Van de Putte was a leader from the beginning to help pass HB 4009, the human trafficking bill.

### **About The Rape Crisis Center**

In November 1975 a group of concerned victims banded together to incorporate as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. These visionary leaders embarked on a grassroots effort to address the needs of sexual violence victims, their families and the community at large. Today The Rape Crisis Center has grown into a full service agency, addressing prevention, education, crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy, as well as continuing the strong base of outreach and support services from which it was built. The Center provides a team of caring and trained specialists to serve as a community resource for San Antonio and surrounding counties by providing: 24-hour crisis hotline services via the telephone and internet; Advocacy and support for survivors receiving medical exams at area hospitals; Free counseling services for children, women, and men impacted by sexual violence, and their loved ones; Community Awareness and Primary Prevention Education for school districts, community groups, and the business community. Visit [www.rapecrisis.com](http://www.rapecrisis.com) for more information.

Co-hosts for the event are Cynthia Lee (founder of Motah.com and former KABB News Anchor) and Judge Peter Sakai. Entertainment will be provided by guitarist Jose Perello. Unable to attend, Mrs. Perry has sent a special letter addressed to the honorees and guests. Tickets for the event are still available. Tickets for two are \$250, with a single ticket costing \$150. Contact Roxy Pruski at 208-5750 for ticket information.