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Breaking the Silence Program Highlights Prevent Child Abuse Month

Kristi House will mark April — national Prevent Child Abuse Month — with *Breaking the Silence*, a program designed to build awareness and focus attention on the epidemic of child sexual abuse. Now in its third year with major sponsorship support from Leon Medical Centers, 200 guests are expected to attend the Children Advocacy Center's culminating luncheon program on April 30 at Grove Isle Hotel.

"We launched *Breaking the Silence* because we believe that as a society we are finally seeing widespread recognition of child sexual abuse as the public health epidemic it is," Kristi House Executive Director Trudy Novicki said. "We are at the brink of a sea change in understanding, and are experiencing an emergence of those willing to speak out, seek solutions, and break the silence."

Guests will hear testimonials from survivors of child sexual abuse, including from a business leader and an adolescent whose poetry helped in her healing process.

The event is being co-chaired by Rachelle Fortner, Barbara Hinterkopf, Glenn Huber of BNY Mellon Wealth Management and Judy Zeder, with underwriting support from Grove Isle Hotel.

Kristi House is centrally located on the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital campus at 1265 NW 12th Avenue. Founded in 1996, Kristi House has served more than 6,700 victims of child sexual abuse and their families. Thousands

more are reached every year with education and prevention outreach programs. Services include case management, therapy, referral, transportation, advocacy and emergency assistance. Two satellite offices in north and south Miami-Dade serve clients in surrounding neighborhoods. For more information visit www.kristihouse.org.

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