



HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN RAISES \$700,000 AT 9TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S BREAKFAST; FUNDS TO BENEFIT MA HOMELESS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Dover Resident an Instrumental Force in Ensuring Success of Event

ROXBURY, Mass. (October 15, 2007) – This past week, something very special took place in Boston. Dr. Maya Angelou spoke to over 1,600 people gathered at the Hynes Convention Center for Horizons for Homeless Children's 9th Annual Women's Breakfast in an effort to raise funds for the Roxbury-based non-profit and the programs and services it provides to Massachusetts homeless children and families. That effort proved fruitful in that over \$700,000 was raised at the event through sponsorship, ticket sales and a most successful raffle.

As Co-Chair of the 9th Annual Women's Breakfast committee, Dover's **Lauren Larson**, a longtime supporter of Horizons for Homeless Children, played a key role in ensuring this event's success. For months prior to the event she worked to secure sponsorships, develop the program, build awareness and promote the event throughout the greater Boston area. Larson's efforts paid off on October 10th, when over 1,600 people walked away from the 9th Annual Women's Breakfast feeling empowered to do more to help Horizons for Homeless Children in their work with homeless children and families.

As Vice President of Organizational Development at Commodore Builders in Newton, Lauren Larson's schedule is challenging. Yet she made it possible this year to devote hours of her time to co-leading a diligent committee of volunteers, all driven to ensure that the 9th Annual Women's Breakfast would be successful in reaching its goals. That it did and more, thanks to Larson's unyielding commitment, energy and creativity. "Lauren Larson is someone who has made such a difference for Horizons for Homeless Children," said Sue Heilman, Executive Director, Horizons for Homeless Children. "Because of her involvement, her enthusiasm and her commitment to our mission, our 9th Annual Women's Breakfast left over 1,600 people with an urge to do more to help us in our efforts of improving the lives of homeless children and families across the state."

The 9th Annual Women's Breakfast was emceed by Channel 4's **Liz Walker** and the program featured Massachusetts First Lady **Diane Patrick** and **Dr. Maya Angelou**, world renowned poet, historian, author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director. At the Women's Breakfast, Dr. Angelou's passionate address created a palpable energy in the room as she reflected on how all of us as individuals can offer hope to homeless children and families.

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Founded in 1988 as an independent, non-profit organization, **Horizons for Homeless Children** is dedicated to serving homeless children and their families. Headquartered in Roxbury, MA, Horizons for Homeless Children has created over 140 Playspaces (educational and recreational spaces) in family shelters throughout Massachusetts. This year alone, the agency has recruited, trained and placed over 1,000 community members to become Playspace Activity Leaders, working with the children living in the shelters. Horizons for Homeless Children's three *Community Children's Centers (CCCs)* provide childcare and early education for 175 homeless children, and parent support services for their families.

Since 1999, the Women's Breakfast has brought together a dedicated group of women to celebrate the efforts and achievements of Horizons for Homeless Children and to focus their shared determination on helping to solve the crisis of child and family homelessness.

For more information on Horizons for Homeless Children, please visit our website at www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org.