

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Acclaimed Author Andre Dubus III to Speak About Violence

Public is invited to annual Dare To Dream Breakfast on May 10th hosted by Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center

NEWBURYPORT, Mass. – April 12, 2011– National Book Award finalist and author of the just-released memoir *Townie*, Andre Dubus III, will be speaking on Tuesday, May 10th at the annual Dare to Dream breakfast hosted by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, a nationally-recognized domestic violence organization. The fundraising breakfast is free. For reservations, contact Mimi Reeves at 978.465.0999 or by email at mreeves@jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org.

“We see this breakfast as an opportunity to start the day with hope for a world without violence,” says Suzanne Dubus, chief executive officer of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. “We are planning a powerful presentation to inform the community of the success of Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center’s local programs and the impact we are making nationally in our efforts to save the lives of those in danger of domestic violence.”

The breakfast event is intended to increase awareness about the issue of domestic violence, as well as highlight how the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center’s high risk response team has become a national model for its effectiveness in preventing domestic violence homicide. The breakfast will take place from 7:45 to 9:00 a.m. at the Hope Community Church, 11 Hale Street, Newburyport.

Known for the bestselling *House of Sand and Fog*, Andre Dubus III is the brother of Suzanne Dubus and has been a longtime supporter of the work of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. His memoir *Townie* about growing up in a then tough-knuckle Haverhill, Massachusetts, includes the retelling of how the violence he witnessed – and was part of – impacted him.

For nearly 30 years, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has been helping individuals and families at risk because of domestic violence. What began as the compassionate mission of several volunteer parishioners of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Newburyport in 1982, has grown into a nationally-recognized nonprofit organization serving victims of domestic violence from Amesbury, Merrimac, Georgetown, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, West Newbury and Groveland. The Center is also known for providing statewide and national training and technical assistance. In addition the Center’s SAFE Studio program operates out of Ipswich and Girls Incorporated of the Seacoast Area operates in all ten communities. The mission of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is to empower community members to live free from fear, intimidation, violence or the threat of abuse by providing support, advocacy and education. For more information, call 978-465-0999, visit www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org or call the 24-hour confidential crisis hotline at 978-388-1888.

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