



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Roxanne Conlin Funds Scholarship Program for Survivors of Domestic Violence**

Des Moines - September 13, 2011 - Roxanne Conlin, her brother, Raymond Barton and her sister, Rhoda Olsen have created a scholarship program in honor of their mother Alice Barton, a survivor of domestic violence. The Alice Barton Scholarship program is a \$63,000 per year commitment to administer and to fund as many as sixty scholarships annually for survivors of domestic violence in Iowa. The program also offers services like tutoring and college counseling to help students succeed. Conlin and her family have committed to fund scholarships specifically for survivors at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women and in the community.

Conlin, a well known Iowa trial attorney and long time supporter of ICADV, is herself the survivor of violence in her family of origin. Her brother, Raymond Barton is the founder and Chairman of the Board of Great Clips, Inc. Her sister, Rhoda Olsen is Great Clips CEO. Both now live in the Minneapolis area but were raised in Des Moines.

"I know at a deeply personal level the debilitating effect of family violence. When someone you love hurts you, it destroys trust and confidence. Education was the way out of poverty for all of us. Our family hopes that, that through these scholarships, in

the name of our beloved mother, we can reach out to others and give them the chance to build a secure and safe future for themselves and for their families," says Roxanne Conlin.

The Alice Barton Scholarship program provides survivors throughout Iowa with the means and support to attend and succeed in advanced education, enabling women to change their lives and futures positively. One student says, "I don't have a lot of positive things in my life. A college education is a tangible accomplishment."

Students will recognize their intelligence and their ability to honor commitments, while gaining an education that increases their future earning potential. Additionally, scholarships empower each student to envision her future and purpose in her life.

The Alice Barton Scholarship program will complement existing initiatives at ICIW administered by ICADV's Skylark Project. Nationally, 60% of women in prison have suffered domestic abuse or sexual assault, yet this population is drastically underserved. ICADV created the Skylark Project to bring comprehensive services to survivors at ICIW. The Skylark Project assists survivors with commutation applications, facilitates classes about healthy ways to cope with post-traumatic stress disorder, and provides some re-entry planning assistance. The Alice Barton Scholarship program provides another avenue for survivors to heal and to prepare to re-enter their communities successfully.

In addition to covering tuition and books, the Alice Barton Scholarship program will incorporate services to empower students at ICIW. With the assistance of the scholarship program administrator, students will receive college entrance counseling and tutoring to help them set and attain personal and career goals. The Skylark

Project currently has several Grinnell College students as tutors but is always looking for more community members who are knowledgeable on a broad spectrum of topics to volunteer as tutors for Alice Barton Scholarship participants.

The Alice Barton Scholarship program will begin accepting applications for ICIW scholarships in September 2011. Survivors in the community can apply through their local domestic violence program. We will begin accepting applications for community scholarships in November 2011, with scholarships to be awarded in January 2012. The scholarship funds can be used for college courses or job training programs, and the money can be used for a broad range of expenses which support the student's study/job training - tuition and books, but also child care, transportation, training equipment, etc.

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence seeks to engage all people in a movement to change the social and political systems that perpetuate violence against women. We do this through education, advocacy, and quality victim services. Please contact ICADV at 515.244.8028.

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