

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Area Banks Donate to Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury's Cancelled Events

Waterbury, CT – Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury is happy to announce donations from Liberty Bank, Ion Bank and Thomaston Savings Bank in support of Out of the Shadows and the 29.5 Annual Golf Classic. Liberty Bank stepped up with a donation of \$3,500, Ion Bank with \$3,000 and Thomaston Savings Bank with \$2,500. This was supposed to be the 30th Annual golf event, but COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the tournament. It was jokingly called 29.5 because the 30th is such a milestone, it will be reserved for next year.

“The golf tournament, along with Out of the Shadows which should have been held in April, were both cancelled. These sponsorship donations will help replace some of the lost revenue that would have come from these two major fundraising events.” said Lee Schlesinger, Executive Director of Safe Haven. He continued, “We were contacted by our friends at Liberty Bank, Ion Bank and Thomaston Savings Bank about continuing with their planned sponsorships of the events, even though they were cancelled.”

When contacted about the sponsorship, Amy Helbling Crafa, AVP, Corporate Communications Officer at Liberty Bank, commented, “We are glad to give back to such a wonderful cause again this year and are honored to support Safe Haven’s mission. During this pandemic, we are proud to say that we have continued to support organizations throughout our footprint and help our communities during these challenges times. We recently celebrated our 195th anniversary as CT's oldest bank and look forward to the next 195 years, serving our customers and communities through organizations like Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury.” “Ion Bank is happy to support both of Safe Haven’s cancelled events. We have been supporting our communities for over 150 years and realize how important it is to go above and beyond during these unprecedented times. It is imperative that we continue to support organizations like Safe Haven who provide support to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.” said Kathleen McPadden, SVP/Community Relations Officer. Cheryl Lindstrom, Community Outreach Coordinator at Thomaston Savings Bank said, “We would like you to keep the \$1,250 sponsorship for Out of the Shadows as a general donation. Furthermore, we would like to make an additional donation of \$1,250 in lieu of our golf sponsorship. We are happy to be able to support your efforts assisting some of our most vulnerable citizens.”

Said Schlesinger, “We are so fortunate to have such great partners in the communities that we serve. We truly would not be able to do this work without their support. We thank all three banks for their continued support of our agency, especially in these difficult times.”

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Safe Haven provides 24-hour crisis intervention for victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence via two hotlines. Additional services include, emergency shelter for individuals and their children fleeing domestic violence, individual and peer group counseling, legal advocacy for both criminal and civil matters, hospital accompaniment following an assault, child advocacy and counseling, outreach to underserved communities, art therapy and community prevention education. For more information about Safe Haven, please visit www.safehaventgw.org.