

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **A Sculpture Unveiling and Art Walk At YWCA Spokane Celebrating Women and Domestic Violence Survivors**

**Spokane WA** – During First Friday art walk on December 2nd, 2016, from 5:00pm – 7:30pm, at 930 N Monroe Street, YWCA Spokane will unveil a sculpture dedicated to survivors of domestic violence. Additional works of art by local artists will be displayed at this public gathering. Each piece will honor, celebrate, and acknowledge aspects of a woman’s journey.

### **HOW THE SCULPTURE WAS COMMISSIONED**

Debra Garrett, Spokane philanthropist and passionate YWCA supporter, reached out to YWCA Spokane with an offer to commission a work of art dedicated to a survivor’s journey, created by local visual artist Ildikó Kalapács. The sculpture, installed by the entrance to the YWCA Spokane’s Alternative To Domestic Violence Program’s entryway, serves as a symbol of the partnership between the YWCA and a survivor’s dedication to a new beginning.

“I wanted to honor my family members and the many others who survive domestic violence,” expressed Garrett, “and the courage it takes to walk through the YWCA’s doors looking for peace, shelter, and an opportunity to begin again.”

### **ABOUT THE SCULPTURE - *REFUGE***

The bronze cast sculpture created by Kalapács, titled *Refuge*, depicts a woman and her two children standing on a foundation that reads “ENTER HERE FOR PEACE”. With her arms around them, she guides her children through a doorway that symbolizes the fortitude of a domestic violence survivor and the start of a new life.

“Ever since I was a little girl, I have been keenly aware of the uncertain and painful domestic situations of some women and their children, including my mother’s and many other women’s sufferings in my larger family and neighborhood back in Hungary,” stated Kalapács. “Solidarity with those who leave unbearable family situations is what this sculpture is about. Lifting them up, making them feel safe and loved.”

## **A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT**

In addition to Garrett’s and Kalapács contribution, implementation of this symbolic piece required a collaborative effort of local business partners Walla Walla Foundry and Mel’s Custom Cabinets.

Photos documenting Kalapács’ journey while creating this work of art are available at [ywcaspokane.org](http://ywcaspokane.org).

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## **ABOUT YWCA SPOKANE**

YWCA Spokane is a multi-service non-profit organization whose mission is eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. For over 113 years the YWCA has been committed to empowering women in the Spokane community.

The YWCA’s three umbrella programs include the Alternatives to Domestic Violence Program, Spokane County’s only state-recognized program for domestic violence services; the Women’s Opportunity Center, an established Workforce Connection Site; and Children and Youth Services which includes four sites implementing the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. The YWCA is also home to the uniquely collaborative Spokane Family Justice Center which includes YWCA legal advocates, and City and County law enforcement and prosecutors.

YWCA Spokane is the go-to place in the region for services that empower women and children, support for victims of domestic violence, work readiness resources, and early childhood education. The organization is also a key partner in community coalitions working on issues of racial and social justice.