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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wheat Ridge, Colorado

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The Journey Starts Here: 16th Annual Celebration of Achievement Fundraising Dinner

WHO: Family Tree Celebration of Achievement fundraising dinner featuring former Miss America, Author and Motivational Speaker Marilyn Van Derbur. Tickets are \$40 for individuals and \$75 per couple. For tickets call (303) 422-2133, or visit www.thefamilytree.org.

WHAT: Annual fundraising event to raise awareness of and financial support for the programs and services offered by Family Tree for abused and neglected children, victims of domestic violence and those who are homeless.

WHEN: Thursday, May 7, 2009. Reception & Auction 5:30 p.m. Banquet doors open at 6:15 p.m.

WHERE: Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO 80003

ABOUT THE EVENT: The Journey Starts Here. . . 16th Annual Celebration of Achievement is a fundraising event that celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of Family Tree clients. The evening’s celebrants are chosen by Family Tree staff in recognition of their successful journeys in overcoming the issues of child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness. We also celebrate the enormous community support we receive at Family Tree by acknowledging, through our Celebration of Achievement Community Award, an organization or individual who has partnered with Family Tree in a significant way to enhance our service delivery. In addition, this year Family Tree will present the inaugural Family Tree Impact Award. 400 people are expected to be in attendance at this year’s event, which will include a silent auction and very special video presentations featuring our award recipients.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER, Marilyn Van Derbur, Former Miss America, Author and Motivational Speaker: Marilyn Van Derbur was crowned Miss America in 1958 while she was a student at the University of Colorado, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. As a childhood incest survivor, Marilyn has devoted much of her adult life to raising national awareness and understanding of sexual abuse and its long-term effects. Marilyn chose motivational speaking as her career and was named “Outstanding Woman Speaker in America” by business and civic meeting planners. During the course of her exceptional motivational speaking career Marilyn has produced 24 films, two of which won national and international awards.

FAMILY TREE: Last year Family Tree provided services to more than 31,000 people, including more than 25,000 nights of safe shelter to families and individuals who might otherwise be homeless. The mission of Family Tree is to help people overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness to become safe, strong and self-reliant. Please visit: www.thefamilytree.org