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Local Dentist Dr. Caitlin R. Martini, DMD Honored with Award from the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Charitable Foundation

May 2009 – La Mesa, CA – Dr. Richard Hagstrom, DDS of La Mesa, California, was honored with a *Partners in Peace Award* from the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Charitable Foundation (AACDCF). The primary program of the AACDCF, Give Back A Smile™ (GBAS), assists survivors of domestic violence by providing free consultation and dental treatment to restore their lives and smiles. Dr. Martini was recognized by the AACDCF because she contributed \$25,000 or more during the last fiscal year.

How the GBAS Program Works:

- Domestic violence survivors who have suffered dental injuries from abuse by a former intimate partner or spouse can contact GBAS at 800.773.GBAS (4227).
- Survivors must make an appointment with a counselor, domestic violence advocate, social worker or therapist to complete the advocate section of the GBAS application.
- GBAS conducts the initial review of the application, however, the dentist has the final say as to the eligibility of the applicant.
- If eligible, the AACDCF connects the survivor with a local GBAS volunteer who provides treatment at no charge to the recipient.
- For complete details, visit the GBAS Web site at www.givebackasmile.com.

Restoring Lives and Smiles

"More than five million people are affected by domestic violence every year in the United States. There is clearly a need for a program like GBAS to help survivors rejuvenate their lives through the caring hands of dental professionals," Dr. Caitilin Martini commented.

The GBAS program was launched May 27, 1999. AACD cosmetic dentists, laboratory technicians, and other dental professionals have generously volunteered their time and expertise to the GBAS program. As a result, over 730 domestic abuse cases have been completed for a total dollar value of more than \$6.9 million dollars. There are currently 400 applicants being treated throughout the United States.

For complete details about the GBAS program, as well as more information regarding how dental professionals can participate, visit www.givebackasmile.com, call 800.773.GBAS (4227), or e-mail givebackasmile@aacd.com.

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