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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 19, 2012

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS: A VICIOUS CYCLE

Domestic Violence Services Manager

Discusses Complicated, Intertwined Issues

JUNEAU – It's a double-edged sword: not only do victims of domestic violence experience a high rate of homelessness, but homeless women experience a high rate of violence and victimization. What can we do to help break the cycle?

Join Mandy O'Neal Cole, direct services manager for AWARE, Inc. (Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies) as she presents the lunchtime lecture "Homelessness and Domestic Violence," Wednesday, March 21 at the Alaska State Museum. The lecture begins at noon.

As if domestic violence wasn't already complicated and misrepresented in our culture, explains O'Neal Cole, it often intertwines with homelessness, impacting women's ability to separate from dangerous partners, obtain/maintain employment, find safe transportation, maintain legal custody of their children and establish permanent housing. In her lecture, she will explore the impact of domestic violence on homelessness, in an effort to craft a plan to end both.

Mandy O'Neal Cole appears as part of a lecture series inspired by the current ASM exhibit "Out of the Rain," focusing on the impact of homelessness in our community. In conjunction with the Juneau Homeless Coalition, the State Museum hosts a free lecture every Wednesday in March, featuring a different speaker each week. Admission to the lectures is free; visitors are invited to bring a lunch and encouraged to make a canned food donation to the Southeast Alaska Food Bank.

Remaining speaker: March 28 – Scott Ciambor, H&SS planner for the Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Drug and Alcohol Abuse: "Alaska's Inadequate Housing Stock: Gaps that Impact the Homeless, Low-Income, and Middle Class"

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. **Free admission to the exhibit that will run through April 21 is available to those who make a donation of canned food.** Discounted winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.state.ak.us

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