

For immediate release

August 17, 2007 – Dallas, TX

**AMS COMPLETES PRODUCTION ON *PORTRAIT OF ABUSE: AN AMERICAN EPIDEMIC*  
WITH ARTIST GLENDA FREEMAN**

AMS Production Group has completed the production phase of the domestic violence documentary, *Portrait of Abuse: An American Epidemic*, shooting footage of artist Glenda Freeman. The HD film is a story that not only raises our social awareness of the far reaching effects and cycles of domestic violence, but digs into the psyche of both victim and the abuser to better understand how a new outcome can be reached. Award-winning director Sara Ivey says, "We interview rich, middle-income and poor women. Domestic violence happens behind closed doors in mansions and tiny apartments." Ivey adds, "Women from many different backgrounds tell very detailed stories they kept secret for years. *Portrait of Abuse* gives many people the chance to break the silence and scream 'enough is enough.'"

One of the film's participants is Glenda Freeman, a former Dallas resident and now LA-based artist. She originally participated in another AMS project *The Art of Living*, showing how she uses the healing power of art to overcome her wounds from an abusive marriage. Ms. Freeman says, "I hope for women to understand that it's not their fault, it is a learning experience, and it's not the end of the world. In order to grow, you must do away with the past. It's a healing process that is scary, but it can be exciting because you have a chance to start over again. You feel a heavy burden on your shoulders, but you have to take that risk. It comes down to 'do you want to live or do you want to die?' Just get out. No one can help you. Know self love, because that is the key to surviving. Learn and profit from your experiences in life."

When asked why AMS Production Group is involved in such a serious topic, Executive Producer Mark McGovern responded, "Domestic violence is truly at an epidemic level in this country. Just one look at the statistics and it's easy to see why this story must be told. Our hope is that we can raise awareness and get people talking about what has been hidden for so long."

AMS is proud to be a part of such an endeavor. Mr. McGovern says, "We're extremely grateful to the many women who have come forward to tell their story in this piece. Their courage can make a world of difference to the millions of families who are still too afraid or don't know how to get away from the pain." Adds Ms. Ivey, "It's an honor for AMS to give them that opportunity."

In time for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month – *Portrait of Abuse: An American Epidemic* is set for release in October 2007. It will also screen at the upcoming Facing Family Violence Conference ([www.ccc-fv.org](http://www.ccc-fv.org)) at 1:45 pm on Friday October 19, 2007 at Collin College and is open to the public. The event is sponsored by the Collin County Council on Family Violence, which is an initiative of the Junior League of Plano.

Please visit [www.PortraitofAbuse.com](http://www.PortraitofAbuse.com)

For more information, please contact:

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