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Contact: Anne Lee  
843.965.5444 x15  
[Alee@d2l.org](mailto:Alee@d2l.org)

**2010 Corporate Voice of Courage Award Recipient Announced**

Charleston, SC – Darkness to Light (D2L), a national nonprofit organization seeking to empower and teach adults to prevent child sexual abuse, today announced it would give its 2010 Corporate Voice of Courage Award to The Redwoods Group, an insurance provider to child-serving organizations.

The Voice of Courage award is presented at D2L’s Circle of Light™ gala held annually on the Thursday before Thanksgiving in historic Charleston. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that have “the heart to step forward and bring the topic of child sexual abuse to the fore.” Previous corporate recipients include Time, Inc., CNN and Volvo of North America.

The Morrisville, NC-based Redwoods will be honored for its “leadership and courage in working with YMCAs and providing them with incentives to make the prevention of child sexual abuse part of their organizations’ culture and to become community leaders in prevention,” said Anne Lee, D2L president and chief executive officer.

Redwoods is the largest provider of insurance services to YMCAs and Jewish Community Centers in the nation and also offers those services to nonprofit resident camps. Since its inception in 1997, Redwoods has offered free safety training for its customers. Their staff members are taught how to keep children safe by preventing child sexual abuse, drowning, injury, vehicular accidents and more. Last year, Redwoods added free on-line training for its customers.

In 2009, The Redwoods Group Foundation hired a Foundation fellow to work with the Child Protection Task Force of the YMCAs of Massachusetts to create policies, guidelines and a tool kit of resources to help YMCAs in that state prevent child sexual abuse. This year, the Foundation appointed Ralph Yohe, who has headed two YMCAs during his 30 year-Y career, as a senior Foundation fellow to lead an effort called Shine the Light. Yohe will strive to move D2L’s child sexual prevention efforts to YMCAs in other states. The Foundation provided a \$100,000 grant to D2L that was combined with D2L federal grant money so YMCAs participating in Shine the Light can apply for two-for-one matching grants. This will help pay for D2L child sexual abuse prevention training and training materials to spread awareness and prevention knowledge to adults throughout the YMCAs’ communities.

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“This was a very bold, smart move for Redwoods— there are few corporations, especially in the insurance industry, doing anything like this,” Lee said. “If Shine the Light is successful, we could see a real shift in culture in the next few years. YMCAs could become community leaders in empowering adults to take the steps necessary to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse.”

Redwoods President and CEO Kevin A. Trapani said his company recognizes that stopping child sexual abuse is not just a problem specific to child-serving organizations like YMCAs.

“Protecting children from the threat of sexual abuse is a moral obligation for every community,” he said. “D2L has a successful track record of increasing public awareness of this issue and we are pleased to partner with them to help YMCAs spark their communities to action.”

### **About Darkness to Light**

When D2L was formed in 2000, there was little known about the prevention of child sexual abuse. The focus was on teaching children to say “No” and then report what happened to a trusted adult. Anne Lee and a group of community leaders recognized that increasing adult awareness and teaching adults how to take responsible action were keys to stopping child sexual abuse. Today, independent third-parties, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Crime Victims Center and several leading hospitals and universities, among others, routinely evaluate and validate D2L’s methodology and training materials. Currently, D2L has trained over 3,000 people as facilitators to teach its Stewards of Children prevention program in 49 states and 11 countries. For more information, please visit the D2L website at [www.d2l.org](http://www.d2l.org).

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