



For Immediate Release  
April 30, 2014

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## Vera House recognizes National Sexual Assault Awareness Month with Clothesline Project at Destiny USA

**Syracuse, NY-** Vera House is recognizing National Sexual Assault Awareness month in April with large display in Destiny USA's Canyon Area.

The Clothesline Project will be on display on the first level in Destiny USA's Canyon Area from Wednesday, April 30 until Tuesday, May 6 with American Sign Language interpretation available Friday, May 2. More than 300 shirts will be on display, each bearing an individual message that conveys the impact that abuse has. The original Clothesline Project began in Hyannis, Massachusetts in 1990 and has since grown to more 300 displays nationally and internationally.

According to Vera House Clothesline Coordinator Melissa Marrone, "The Clothesline Project gives survivors of sexual violence a voice that was once silenced. The awareness and reality of the volume of abuse that is committed in our community is overwhelming when people walk through this powerful display. The Project awakens us to this epidemic and inspires us to share the message to end violence."

The first Clothesline Project in Syracuse, NY was hosted on Carousel Center's (now Destiny USA's) Skydeck in 1993.

"Destiny USA is honored to continue to host the Vera House Clothesline project each year," Rob Schoeneck, General Manager of Destiny USA, stated. "We are proud to partner with Vera House on this project and are grateful to help raise awareness for such a great cause."

Representatives for the Clothesline Project will have a table outside of the display throughout its tenure at Destiny USA.

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**Destiny USA** is a 2.4 million square foot tourist destination in Syracuse, NY that includes a strong mix of luxury outlet tenants, restaurants and entertainment. New brands are continuing to open to create a unique and dynamic consumer shopping experience. A stunning three-story glass atrium provides perfect weather year round. Oxford Economics has projected an annual visitation rate of over 29 million visitors from throughout the U.S. and Canada. Destiny USA is

expected to be the second most visited shopping center in the country, according to Travel and Leisure magazine. It is the largest LEED® Gold certified retail commercial building in the world.

**Vera House** works to end domestic violence and sexual assault in our community through various programs and services. The agency provides a 24-hour crisis, support and information line, and emergency shelter to ensure that all individuals are safe from violence. Actively engaged in domestic and sexual violence education and training in the community, Vera House offers counseling and advocacy services for victims of domestic and sexual violence as well as youth and elder abuse education programs. For more information about Vera House, please visit our website at [www.verahouse.org](http://www.verahouse.org).