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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**\*\*\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\*\*\***

**Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce announces  
PWN Inspiration Award winner**

**DURHAM, NC** – The Professional Women’s Network, a program of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, announced today the recipient of its Inspiration Award at the annual PWN Success Luncheon. Gail Mills of the Durham Rescue Mission was honored for her tireless dedication to Durham and her efforts to uplift women in our community. Duke Women’s Head Basketball Coach Joanne P. McCallie served as keynote speaker for the event. A sold out crowd of more than 250 people attended.

The Inspiration Award recognizes a professional woman who works on behalf of women inside and outside the workplace, serves the Durham community by inspiring others through her leadership and gives of herself so the other women might learn, grow, advance and succeed.

Mills has been dedicated to working on behalf of the homeless and hungry for almost 34 years. Even before the opening of the Durham Rescue Mission’s The Opportunity Place, the first home for women and children in Durham, she often gave refuge to needy women by opening her own personal home to provide safe shelter and offer a helping hand up.

From the planning stages of that first Durham Rescue Mission house for five women and their children to the renovations of the old Durham Inn for the beautiful Good Samaritan Inn, she had a dream of a clean, bright, cheery home for those in need of safe shelter. Today, the women and children’s division of the Durham Rescue Mission, now called the Good Samaritan Inn, offers safe shelter, vocational training, and Biblical counseling for 65 or more women and children.

Many women have been touched by her as she serves not only as a role model, but advocates for workplace skills. She has been a great encourager to women as she helps them find a better life for their children and themselves.

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