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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Romance Author Targets Domestic Violence

Novelist Uses Profits to Battle Epidemic

April 21, 2005, Columbus, Ohio – Amey S. Tippett, author of the new romance novel, *Alison's Journey* (Publish America, 2005), has high hopes for the book, and not just for selfish reasons. Ms. Tippett has pledged 10% of her royalties to The Center for New Beginnings Domestic Violence Shelter & Services in Newark, Ohio. When asked why she chose to write about domestic violence and to promote awareness through the novel, Ms. Tippett said that it is her hope that, while a work of fiction, this true-to-life story will bring hope to the many who suffer abuse, and will also serve to raise both awareness and funds to end the cycle that so many women endure

"I felt that [domestic violence] often gets overlooked due to the general misconception that women should know better. Sure, they know better, but when you think you deserve something, you're less likely to fight back," Ms. Tippett replied. "I'm hoping that *Alison's Journey* gives outsiders that perspective, and brings hope to women who don't know how to extricate themselves from that kind of situation."

Domestic violence statistics, which should be frightening, often become rote from continued repetition. The story that Ms. Tippett tells in *Alison's Journey* is one that brings home the fear, horror, anger and helplessness that can accompany any case within this epidemic. But, more than that, it is a story, of strength, hope, tenacity and the difficulties and rewards of learning to trust again. Although the story is fiction, the emotion and the circumstances are truer than one who has not experienced this senseless act might imagine.

Alison's Journey is the sweetly emotional story of one woman's courageous choice to get out of an abusive marriage, a decision that results in a mad dash across America. Pure chance lands the heroine in small town Ohio, where she learns about friendship, loyalty, trust and – yes – true love. Ms. Tippett wraps readers in a warmly emotional cocoon as Alison learns to depend on others, and opens up to new friendships and a new love.

Choosing a victims' support organization to sponsor proved a challenge for Ms. Tippett. The sheer number of cases and the many shelters who need funding is a testament to the prevalence of this issue in America today. After much research and examination, Ms. Tippett has chosen The Center for New Beginnings Domestic Violence Shelter & Services in Newark, Ohio, near her hometown of Columbus.

"The Center for New Beginnings is a forward-thinking shelter. They provide help to women and children who are in their care, but they also allow others to come in and get the help they need. Sometimes, a woman might not be ready to leave her situation, but she can learn ways to cope and get support by going there," Ms. Tippett said. "I was really impressed by the fact that they're teaching prevention. I truly believe that education is the only way to get to the root of the problem."

New Beginnings is a program offering free, confidential housing and assistance services to Central Ohio community members and residents who need help making a fresh start. The agency's services include a 24-hour crisis hotline, housing for victims who need shelter, victim and child advocacy programs, case management, domestic violence education and support groups, among others.

In 2004, New Beginnings was able to assist more than 300 women and children in leaving emotionally or physically abusive environments. The Center for New Beginnings is a program of the Woodlands, A Community Resource (www.thewoodland.org) and is supported by United Way. Each purchase of *Alison's Journey* will result in a contribution to this organization.

Alison's Journey is available for consumer purchase at the following online booksellers:

Publish America:

<http://www.publishamerica.com/books/8238> - \$16.95

Amazon.com

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1413740073/qid=1112905141/sr=2-1/ref=pd_bbs_b_2_1/104-3314543-5627162 - \$19.95

Barnes & Noble

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/isbnInquiry.asp?userid=LF8Dis3BMP&sourceid=M000000265&isbn=1413740073&itm=1> - \$19.95

Alison's Journey is available to libraries and booksellers directly from Publish America (<http://www.PublishAmerica.com>, call (240) 529-1031, or fax 1-301-631-9073), and through wholesalers Ingram, Baker & Taylor and Brodart Co. (1-800-233-8467). Critical information is as follows:

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Website: www.btol.com

Email: btinfo@btol.com

To request a review copy of *Alison's Journey*, to interview Ms. Tippet or schedule a book-signing event, please contact Kerry Anderson, via the information listed above, or visit www.ameytippet.com.

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