

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anna Farneski; afarnesk@ramapo.edu / (201) 684.6844

September 25, 2012

Ramapo College to Host Art Exhibit by Domestic Violence Victims

(MAHWAH, NJ)- Ramapo College of New Jersey will host to the Shelter our Sisters (SOS) “Baring our Soles” art exhibit which will showcase lavish footwear from SOS’s domestic violence victims who are enrolled in their Art Therapy Program. The exhibit will be unveiled on Monday, October 8 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the George T. Potter Library at Ramapo College. Following the reveal, the Ramapo College Social Work Club will hold a group discussion and reception. The display will remain at the George T. Potter Library throughout the month of October. Hours of operation are from Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to midnight, Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday noon to midnight. The exhibit is free for the general public.

The decorated shoes are a way for victims to express themselves and cope with the abuse they faced in the past as they work towards a happier future. Individual narratives by the artist will accompany each decorated shoe.

“The clients choose shoes that are symbolic of who they are and where they came from,” explained Marta Levy, SOS’s art therapist who works directly with the SOS clients. “The project gives the victims an opportunity to have a voice and share internal emotional connections with their shoes. As they complete their designs and write down their personal stories, the shoe is no longer just a shoe. It becomes a symbol of breaking the silence of each survivors’ journey.”

For more information on the exhibit please contact Director of Development at SOS, Jean Kirch, at 201.498.9247 ext. 301 or jean@shelteroursisters.org.

For a photo, please click on this link:

<http://www.ramapo.edu/news/pressreleases/2012/images/Baring-Our-Souls.tif>

###

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to

teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers five graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.