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Stomping Grapes to Stomp Out Hunger

Local business owner and Colorado native, Derek Handley is giving back to his community this fall by transforming his first annual Water 2 Wine Grape Crush Festival into a benefit for Gateway Women's Services, a local shelter for battered women and children.

Fall is an exciting time of year that brings bold flavors and luscious wines to mind. The arrival of fall means it's time to sit back and enjoy the fruits of summer labor and enjoy the last warmth of the season before winter blows in. This fall, local business owner Derek Handley has decided to make the most of fall by holding the first annual Water 2 Wine Crush Week and Grape Stomp right in the heart of Centennial at Water 2 Wine. The first annual Water 2 Wine Crush Week and Grape Stomp will be held October 20th-24th, and each day of Crush Week will feature special events where wine lovers can enjoy live music, contests and tasting tips as they taste some of the 85 wines from around the world that Water 2 Wine has to offer. The Water 2 Wine Crush Week and Grape Stomp is a five day celebration of the fall harvest and of the fantastic wines that will come from those harvested grapes. Throughout the week there will be something for everyone at Water 2 Wine, events include a Lucille Ball look-alike contest, wine tasting tips and classes, constant raffles for great prizes, a food drive to benefit Gateway Women's Services which provides services to local battered women, and of course the chance to get in on some grape stomping.

The first annual Water 2 Wine Crush Week and Grape Stomp will be kicked off on Tuesday October 20th with a wine tasting class to help wine enthusiasts make the most of the rest of the week. Each day will bring something fun with tastings, contests and raffles to win great prizes from Water 2 Wine and other local businesses. The crush itself will take place both Friday October 23rd and Saturday October 24th with live music, food and wine tastings and of course, the grape stomp itself. Wine lovers can even participate in the stomp by bringing a non-perishable food or money donation for Gateway Women's Services to receive a glass of wine and get a turn in the stomp barrel to crush the grapes. Raffle tickets will also be handed out in exchange for non-perishable food with prizes including a custom batch of wine, grape crush t-shirts featuring the footprints and autographs of local celebrities and many more great prizes for people who enjoy food and wine.

All food collected during the first annual Water 2 Wine Crush Week and Grape Stomp will go to Gateway Women's Services in order to help provide food for the women and children who come to Gateway looking for help escaping from the domestic violence they are experiencing in their lives. Every day Gateway Women's Services provides food for 42 women and children in the resident programs and between 400-600 women and children in the non-resident program.

With a less certain economy comes less support for charitable organizations like Gateway Women's Services which is why Water 2 Wine owner Derek Handley wanted to reach out to lend a helping hand "This is a natural fit for us [at Water 2 Wine] because we feel it is important to make a positive impact in

the local community and while we take some time to enjoy some great wine and some great food we want to help people who can't imagine taking food for granted." While the fall is traditionally the time to enjoy summer's bounty of wine grapes, October is also Domestic Violence Awareness month which makes the partnership between Water 2 Wine and Gateway Women's Services even more pertinent.

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Water 2 Wine is a one of a kind wine store in Centennial, CO that offers over 85 wines from all over the world. Each and every wine in the store is available for tasting before purchase so there are no regrets; if you don't love it, don't buy it. Water 2 Wine even offers wine lovers the ability to create and bottle their very own private label wine. Drink globally, buy locally!

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