



United Services, Inc.

Creating healthy communities



For Immediate Release

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UNITED SERVICES RECEIVES \$20,000 FROM THE MARY KAY FOUNDATION TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mary Kay shelter grant program to help many of the 61,000 domestic violence survivors assisted each day in the United States

Windham, County, CT - United Services Domestic Violence Program of Windham County has received \$20,000 from the Mary Kay Foundation as part of the organization's annual \$3 million national domestic violence grant program.

United Services is one of 150 domestic violence organizations to receive this grant. The grant will be used to support services for victims of domestic violence throughout Windham County Connecticut.

The Foundation's mission is aligned with that of United Services which seeks to make a difference in the lives of women and children who face despair and hopelessness on a regular basis.

"This grant provides critical support for Domestic Violence Services in Windham County at a time of great need," said John J. Goodman, United Services Director of Development and Communications. "Since the start of the "Great Recession" we've seen a significant increase of women and children fleeing violent situations."

"Not only does this funding help address a deficit in funding, but it gives us hope and strength to continue this critical battle," added Goodman. "Domestic Violence is not going away and deserves very serious attention. Programs to help battered women and their children require a lot of resources. That's why we are so thankful The Mary Kay Foundation is helping us help families in our area that need us."

According to the second "Mary Kay Truth About Abuse" national survey conducted in March 2011, domestic violence shelters indicate the economic downturn has increased demand for services, and it will continue to hamper fundraising and the provision of services into 2012. Other economy-related survey results:

- 80% of domestic violence shelters nationwide (more than three out of four) report an increase in women seeking assistance from abuse, and most attribute this hardship to growing financial concerns.

- 76% of domestic violence shelters (three out of four) indicate their funding has decreased.
- 65% of women in shelters can't find employment in the current economic climate.
- 56% of shelters note the abuse is more violent now than before the economic downturn.

"In light of the economic downturn and alarming increase in domestic violence incidents, The Mary Kay Foundation's mission is more critical than ever before. United Services has helped so many women and their families in Northeastern Connecticut. We know they will use these funds to benefit even more domestic violence survivors and their children, said Jennifer Cook, a board member of The Mary Kay Foundation.

About the Mary Kay Foundation

The Mary Kay Foundation was created in 1996, and its mission is two-fold: to fund research of cancers affecting women and to help prevent domestic violence while raising awareness of the issue. Since the Foundation's inception, it has awarded nearly \$25 million to shelters and programs addressing domestic violence prevention and more than \$14 million to cancer researchers and related causes throughout the United States. To learn more about The Mary Kay Foundation, log on to www.marykayfoundation.org or call 1-877-MKCARES (652-2737).