



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Ashlee Wolf
Director of Philanthropy and Communication
Phone: (559) 487-1313; Mobile: (559) 916-5101
Email: ashlee@mmcenter.org

The Marjaree Mason Center Recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month Throughout October

Fresno, CA (October 1, 2025) — October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to reflect on the critical issue of domestic violence, renew a community's commitment to supporting survivors, and collectively work towards prevention. Domestic violence affects millions of people across the nation, transcending age, race, and socioeconomic status. On a local level, according to the California Department of Justice, Fresno County has the highest per capita calls to law enforcement for domestic violence compared to any other county in the State of California.

The Marjaree Mason Center is Fresno County's only dedicated provider of domestic violence shelter and support services. Each year, the Center provides thousands of individuals and families with critical and often lifesaving services including 24/7 helpline and crisis response, safety planning, risk assessments, transportation, emergency shelter and longer-term shelter, case management, counseling, legal advocacy, housing assistance, child advocacy, education and linkages to social services and community-based programs as needed. The Center also offers a prevention program focused on healthy relationship education that is in 41 Fresno County High Schools and Middle Schools. Last year alone, MMC provided direct services to over 8,500 adults and children. The Center's 24/7 confidential helpline is averaging over 700 calls per month.

Domestic violence is a vicious cycle of power and control that includes isolation, physical assault, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and financial abuse. It extends far beyond its immediate victims and is passed down from generation to generation. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), more than 12 million women and men are abused by their partner each year; in fact, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical abuse at the hands of their intimate partner. It's estimated, that in California alone, over 5,000 survivors of domestic violence seek emergency and supportive services each day.

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness for women and children. In addition to physical and emotional abuse, survivors of domestic violence often experience financial abuse, which undeniably affects their ability to obtain safe and affordable housing, leaving them with few safe options. Faced with the unimaginable choice between homelessness and living with abuse, women with children often return to their abuser. The existence of the Marjaree Mason Center

ensures that there is always another choice and that survivors and their families have a safe place to heal while they work toward rebuilding their lives.

This October, the community is encouraged to stand alongside the Marjaree Mason Center to raise awareness, offer support, and advocate for change.

Marjaree Mason Center events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month include:

- **The City of Clovis Proclamation** – October 6 at 6:00 p.m.: *The City of Clovis will issue a proclamation recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month and reaffirming the City's commitment to supporting survivors.*
- **Fresno County Board of Supervisors Proclamation** – October 7 at 9:00 a.m.: *The Fresno County Board of Supervisors will issue a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, standing with survivors, the Marjaree Mason Center, and raising awareness across the community.*
- **Reedley College Healthy Relationships Presentation** – October 8 at 12:00 p.m.: *A Healthy Relationships Presentation will be open to the public on the campus of Reedley College to educate students and all those in attendance on building respectful relationships and raising awareness about domestic violence.*
- **The Power of Listening: How Beauty Professionals Can Help Break the Silence** – October 13 at 2:30 p.m.: *Interactive training designed for beauty industry professionals to identify and support clients who may be experiencing abuse.*
- **City of Reedley City Council Meeting Presentation** – October 14 at 7:00 p.m.: *The City of Reedley City Council Meeting will feature a presentation highlighting Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the importance of Marjaree Mason Center services.*
- **Top Ten Profession Women Awards Luncheon** – October 15 at 11:00 a.m.: *Hosted by the Marjaree Mason Center each October, this year's event will be held at the Fresno Convention & Entertainment Center – bringing together more than 1,500 attendees to celebrate leadership and ignite a commitment to end domestic violence in our community. More information can be found at mmcenter.org. Limited tickets are still available.*
- **National Wear Purple Day** – October 16: *On this day, individuals, organizations, and advocates wear purple to show solidarity with survivors, honor those who have been lost, and raise awareness about the impact of domestic violence in our communities.*
- **Breaking the Cycle: Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Future Relationship** – October 17 at 2:30 p.m.: *This session focuses on identifying signs of domestic violence and exploring the lasting impact trauma can have even after the relationship ends.*
- **City of Mendota Proclamation** – October 21 at 6:00 p.m.: *The City of Mendota will issue a proclamation supporting Domestic Violence Awareness Month and reaffirming the City's commitment to supporting survivors.*
- **Reedley Prayer Vigil** – October 23 at 10:00 a.m.: *A community vigil honoring survivors and remembering those lost to domestic violence, while uniting in hope and healing.*
- **Reedley College Candlelight Vigil** – October 28 at 6:00 p.m.: *A Candlelight Vigil will be held to support survivors of domestic violence, honor those who have lost their lives, and raise awareness in the community.*
- **Understanding Domestic Violence: A Guide for Landlords & Property Managers** – October 28 at 2:30 p.m.: *Interactive training offering practical tools for landlords and property managers to recognize warning signs, respond appropriately, and provide resources.*

There will also be several community presentations announced in the coming days and weeks.

Additionally, the Marjaree Mason Center offers a number of Community Groups every week throughout the entire year that are free and open to the public. These include:

- Domestic Violence Support Group
 - Mondays at 6:00 p.m. (Fresno location)
 - Thursdays in Spanish at 9:00 a.m. *in partnership with Beloved Survivors* (Fresno location)
 - Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. (Fresno location)
- Lean on Us: Loved Ones Support Group
 - Fridays in English at 9:00 a.m. (Fresno location)
- S.A.F.E. (*Survivors of Abuse: Free and Empowered*) Group
 - Tuesday is Spanish at 8:45 a.m. (Fresno location)
 - Tuesdays in English at 6:00 p.m. (Fresno location)
 - Wednesdays in English at 9:00 a.m. (Reedley location)
 - Wednesdays in Spanish at 10:45 a.m. (Reedley location)
 - Fridays in English 10:30 a.m. (Fresno location)
- Legal Options
 - Tuesdays in English at 10 a.m. (Clovis location)
 - Wednesdays in English at 6:00 p.m. (Fresno location)
 - Thursdays in English at 10:00 a.m. (Fresno location)
- Let's Talk: A Group for Teens
 - Wednesdays in English at 3:30 p.m. (Reedley location)
 - Thursdays in English at 4:00 p.m. (Fresno location)
- Parents Café
 - Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. (Fresno location)
- Kids Group
 - Tuesdays in English at 4:00 p.m. (Fresno location)

For information on any of the above activities, please call (559) 233-4357.

To learn more about how you can get involved, visit www.mmcenter.org.

####

About Marjaree Mason Center

For over 45 years, the Marjaree Mason Center has offered safe housing and support services to adults and their children affected by domestic violence in Fresno County. As the only comprehensive domestic violence agency in Fresno County, which has the highest per capita calls to law enforcement in the State of California, the Marjaree Mason Center provides safe housing, legal services, counseling and education to survivors and youth. The Center was founded in 1979 after the murder of Marjaree Mason, a native of Easton, at the hands of her ex-boyfriend, a Fresno County Sheriff's deputy. A graduate of Washington High School and Reedley College, Marjaree lived in Fresno for 31 years and was well known in the community. To contact the Marjaree Mason Center, call the business center at 559.237.4706, or the 24-hour confidential emergency helpline at 559.233.HELP (4357) or help@mmcenter.org. To learn more, visit www.mmcenter.org.