



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

### **Marjaree Mason Center Urges Community to Take Action Against Teen Dating Violence After Third Domestic Violence Homicide of a Teenager in 14 Months**

Fresno, CA — (November 28, 2023) — Today is Giving Tuesday. The Marjaree Mason Center originally had planned to send out messages of gratitude today for all those who continue support the mission of the Marjaree Mason Center. Though that gratitude remains, that message has been tragically overshadowed and instead is one of great sorrow and urgency to take action.

Along with so many others in our community, the Marjaree Mason Center team was heartbroken to learn about the recent murder of 19-year-old Melanie Rios Camacho. This marks the third domestic violence homicide of a teenager\* in the Central Valley in the last 14 months.

Today, we urge those in our community to have conversations with the young people in their lives to encourage healthy relationships and the fact that violence simply doesn't belong in a relationship.

No one is "too young" to experience teen dating violence.

As the holiday season approaches, complexities of relationships can often amplify. The holidays can be a lonely season where some are reminded of lost love or broken relationships. For ex-partners nursing the wounds of rejection, the holidays can be a dangerous season.

Winter formal is also fast approaching. With more celebration and less supervision, teen dating violence is an even greater concern. Please talk to your teens about boundaries, what it means to feel safe, and steps they can take if they ever feel as though their safety is at risk.

If someone needs help, guidance, or resources, please call the Marjaree Mason Center 24/7 confidential hotline at (559) 233-HELP (4357).

Our hearts go out to Melanie's family during this unimaginable time.

*\*Although suspects have been arrested and charged, trials are not yet completed for the three domestic violence homicides of teenagers over the last 14 months.*

###

### **About Marjaree Mason Center**

For over 40 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, the Marjaree Mason Center provides 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. A graduate of Washington High School and Reedley College, Marjaree lived in Fresno for 31 years and was well known in the community.

The Marjaree Mason Center holds a Legal Options Class regularly in Fresno, Clovis and Mendota that is open to the community. The class can help survivors of domestic violence through the process of filling out a request for a Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Order or a Gun Violence Restraining Order against an intimate partner. **Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders may be granted to anyone 12 years of age or older.** The class also provides an overview of all the various types of restraining orders available, the criminal justice system, safety planning, and other services available. To learn more, visit <https://mmcenter.org/what-we-do/legal-advocacy>.

To contact MMC, call the business center at 559.237.4706, the 24-hour confidential emergency hotline at 559.233.HELP (4357) or [help@mmcenter.org](mailto:help@mmcenter.org), or learn more online at [www.mmcenter.org](http://www.mmcenter.org).