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Marjaree Mason Center Launches Matching Campaign Now – Dec. 1 In Hopes of Fulling Funding New Building to Combat Domestic Violence

Fresno, CA — (November 18, 2024) — The Marjaree Mason Center is nearing completion of its new Community Resource Center, named its Isnardi Foundation Building, but are calling on the community to participate in a matching gift campaign now through December 1 in order to fully fund the vital project serving survivors of domestic violence. Construction is set to be complete by the end of December and services will begin to be offered in this new location mid-January.

A project that began in 2018, the Marjaree Mason Center’s new Isnardi Foundation Building will house their 24/7 trauma-informed crisis drop-in center, as well as all of their non-residential survivor services including 24/7 hotline, individual counseling and group therapy, legal advocacy and children’s services, as well as all prevention and early intervention efforts.

In December 2022, the Marjaree Mason Center purchased a 5.5- acre property in Fresno with an existing 37,680 sq. ft. building. In its 60-year history, the building was home to several educational organizations including Queen of the Valley, New Life Christian School, Heald College and The Milan Institute. For the past two years, a fundraising campaign has been underway to raise the funds needed to modernize the facility to meet today’s building and operational standards and transform it into a physically and emotionally safe space that will double the physical service capacity of the Marjaree Mason Center. Including both building acquisition and remodel, the total cost of the project is \$21 million.

“Donations to this project are more than an investment in just a larger physical space. It’s an investment in thousands of adults and children whose lives will be transformed as the Marjaree Mason Center empowers them to move from fear and abuse to safety and stability. It is an investment in strengthening our ability to provide the comfort, courage, hope, confidence, dignity and respect that all survivors deserve.

Long-time supporter of the Marjaree Mason Center, The Isnardi Foundation, who previously made a donation which is being honored by naming the new building the Isnardi Foundation Building, recently committed an additional \$1 million in matching funds in order to inspire a second public fundraising campaign to finish fundraising for this project.

Every donation made now through December 1 will be matched up to \$1 million!

During a press conference held on November 18th at the construction site of the new Isnardi Foundation Building, Producers Dairy Owners, Richard Shehadey and Scott Shehadey, stood alongside Marjaree Mason Center leadership in their mission to serve survivors and presented a check for \$250,000 towards completion of the project.

“The Marjaree Mason Center’s work to empower survivors of domestic violence is deeply meaningful to us, as it helps individuals and families move from fear to safety and, ultimately, to a brighter future. This donation is just one way we can help nourish the lives of those impacted by domestic violence, and we hope it will inspire others in our community to contribute to this critical cause. With the matching opportunity in place, every gift made through December 1st has the power to make an even bigger impact. Together, we can help ensure that the Marjaree Mason Center has the resources it needs to continue its life-changing work,” said Scott Shehadey.

This significant donation marks the most recent in a long line of support. Producers Dairy and the Shehadey Family have generously supported the Marjaree Mason Center since 1993.

Anyone can donate to have every dollar up to \$1 Million matched through December 1, 2024 by visiting mmcenter.org. Just select “Courage Takes Root” in the drop-down giving option.

Naming opportunities are still available in the Isnardi Foundation Building in honor of donations and pledges of \$50,000 - \$10,000,000. Gifts of cash, securities, IRAs, real estate, life insurance, bequests or other types of planned gifts are accepted and pledges may be paid over a five-year term.

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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.