



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Marjaree Mason Center Secures \$850,000 in Funding from the Federal Government Towards Completing New Community Resource Center**

Fresno, CA — (April 9, 2024) — Through Community Project Funding and support from Rep. Jim Costa, the Marjaree Mason Center has been selected to receive \$850,000 in funding towards its capital camping project aimed at building the new Isnardi Foundation Community Resource Center, housing all non-residential services for survivors of domestic violence in Fresno County.

Community Project Funding (CPF) is an initiative that started in fiscal year 2022 (FY22) to allow Members of Congress to request direct funding for projects that benefit the communities they represent. The budget funds a wide variety of public projects and activities, including the construction and renovation of facilities, the expansion of existing programs, and the planning and design of future initiatives.

Last year, Rep. Costa, District 21, submitted a request to the U.S. House Appropriations Committee for support of a number of local projects, including the \$850,000 grant to the Marjaree Mason Center’s project. Last month, after passing both the House and the Senate, the President signed the bill and approved included recommended funding.

“Bringing back federal funding to the San Joaquin Valley is one of my top priorities,” Costa said. “These projects will support underserved communities and foster economic development while providing more opportunities for folks to get ahead. I am proud to have fought for this funding to build stronger, more resilient communities.”

With this support, the Marjaree Mason Center has now raised \$16.5 million of the \$21 million campaign goal, which includes costs for both property acquisition and necessary remodel.

“This major gift through the support of Congressman Costa is nothing short of incredible and gets us so much closer to our fundraising goal,” said Nicole Linder, CEO of the Marjaree Mason Center. “This investment in the Marjaree Mason Center and our new Community Resource Center will allow us to provide healing centered care in a space that matches the compassionate service that we’ve long provided. I can’t thank Congressman Costa and the federal government enough for supporting domestic violence survivors in our community through this project.”

The property for the Community Resource Center was purchased by the Marjaree Mason Center in December 2022. As a nearly 60-year-old building, this site has historic roots as Queen of the

Valley Catholic Girls School, New Life Christian School, Heald College and the Milan Institute. However, significant upgrades are needed in order appropriately modernize the site, meet all applicable building codes and for it to meet all of the needs to serve survivors of domestic violence and operate as a 24/7 trauma-informed facility that's both physically and emotionally safe.

The 37,680 square foot building will double the current physical service capacity for all non-residential services for survivors of domestic violence in Fresno County including 24/7 crisis response hotline and drop-in center, mental health services for adults and children, a dedicated children's enrichment center, art therapy room, housing and job support, legal advocacy, speech and behavioral therapy room, health clinic, group therapy spaces and a large 100-seat training room.

Naming opportunities continue to be available in honor of donations and pledges of \$50,000 - \$10,000,000. Additionally, a permanent donor wall inside the building will be featured in honor of all donations of \$10,000 or more.

It is set to open in December of 2024.

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### **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. 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).