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**MARJAREE MASON CENTER AWARDED \$20,000 GRANT DURING  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

*The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> awarded Marjaree Mason Center critical unrestricted funding  
as part of new \$3 million grant slate.*

**Fresno, CA (October 9, 2017)** – Throughout Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, [The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup>](#) is awarding \$20,000 grants to 150 domestic violence shelters across the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam for a total of \$3 million. The Marjaree Mason Center was chosen to receive one of the annual grants to further the organization’s efforts to combat domestic violence and provide rehabilitation services throughout Fresno County.

The Marjaree Mason Center will use this generous donation to fund much-needed personnel to oversee the 24/7 operation and maintenance of our emergency and crisis intervention services.

“At Marjaree Mason Center, we are incredibly grateful for support from The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> and its continued commitment to break the cycle of domestic violence,” said Marjaree Mason Center’s Executive Director Nicole Linder. “We are only able to meet the critical needs of domestic violence survivors in Fresno County because of the philanthropic support of individuals, corporations and foundation, just like this significant gift from The Mary Kay Foundation.”

Marjaree Mason Center is Fresno County’s only dedicated provider of comprehensive domestic violence safe housing and support services. Last year, Marjaree Mason Center provided over 50,000 nights of emergency and transitional housing through two safe house facilities with a total of 138 beds. Without these options, individuals and families in our community would likely be left to stay in unsafe conditions or out on the streets.

“More than 700 domestic violence shelters nationwide applied for The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> shelter grants this year, which demonstrates the overwhelming need to maintain critical services and provide a safe haven for the survivors of an epidemic that impacts one in every four women,” said Anne Crews, board member of The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> and Vice President of Public Affairs for Mary Kay Inc. “Working to prevent and end domestic violence is a cornerstone of The Foundation, Mary Kay Inc. and for countless members of our independent sales force. Since 2000, The Foundation has invested tens of millions of dollars in our shelter grant program and without a doubt, we know these funds make a difference in homes and communities across the country.”

Mary Kay Inc.’s global cause-related program, [Beauty that Counts](#), helps support The Foundation’s annual shelter grant program. [Applications](#) for the 2018 shelter grant program will be available January 15 through April 30.

Please visit [marykayfoundation.org](http://marykayfoundation.org) for additional information and for the full list of 2017 shelter grant recipients, click [here](#).

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#### **About The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup>**

The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> 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. The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> has awarded \$70.7 million to shelters and programs addressing domestic violence prevention and cancer researchers and related causes throughout the United States. To learn more about The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup>, please visit [www.marykayfoundation.org](http://www.marykayfoundation.org) or call 1-877-MKCARES (652-2737).

#### **About Marjaree Mason Center**

For nearly four decades, the Marjaree Mason Center has offered shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence in Fresno County. Currently, the Center operates the county's only dedicated provider of domestic violence shelter and support services, including education for victims 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 supports and empowers adults and children affected by domestic violence, while striving to prevent and end the cycle of abuse through education and advocacy. To contact MMC, call the business center at 559.237.4706, the 24-hour confidential emergency hotline at 559.233.HELP (4357) or visit online at [www.mmcenter.org](http://www.mmcenter.org).