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LOCAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER RECEIVES \$20,000 GRANT DURING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Mary Kay FoundationSM Awarded Casa Myrna Critical Unrestricted Funding as Part of New \$3 Million Grant Slate

Boston (October 23, 2017) – Throughout Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, [The Mary Kay FoundationSM](#) 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. Local shelter, Casa Myrna was chosen to receive one of the annual grants to further the organization's efforts to combat domestic violence and provide rehabilitation services throughout Boston. This year's highly sought-after grant slate brings the total investment in The Foundation's annual shelter grant program to nearly \$42 million.

Casa Myrna will use the grant funding to support emergency shelter services. Other recipients use the unrestricted funds for basic operating expenses, hiring much-needed personnel, completing repairs and renovations or adding programs and resources based on the unique needs of their shelter and the clients they serve.

"At Casa Myrna, we are incredibly grateful for support from The Mary Kay FoundationSM and its continued commitment to break the cycle of domestic violence," said Casa Myrna Chief Executive Office, Stephanie Brown. "This generous support from the Mary Kay Foundation will provide Casa Myrna with crucial resources to help survivors of domestic violence achieve safety, healing, and economic stability, and will strengthen our efforts to engage our community in preventing domestic and dating violence. "

"More than 700 domestic violence shelters nationwide applied for The Mary Kay FoundationSM 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 FoundationSM 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 for additional information and for the full list of 2017 shelter grant recipients, click [here](#).

About The Mary Kay FoundationSM

The Mary Kay FoundationSM 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 FoundationSM 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 FoundationSM, please visit www.marykayfoundation.org or call 1-877-MKCARES (652-2737).

About Casa Myrna

Casa Myrna delivers solutions to end domestic and dating violence through intervention, awareness and prevention. The organization was founded in 1977 by a group of volunteers in Boston's South End to provide a safe haven for women who were being abused by their husbands and partners. Casa Myrna was named for Myrna Vazquez, a local activist who organized members of the South End's Puerto Rican community around social justice issues and domestic violence prevention.

Today, Casa Myrna is Boston's largest provider of domestic violence awareness, shelter and supportive services for domestic violence survivors. Our comprehensive range of services, available in both Spanish and English, provide survivors with tools to recover from the trauma of abuse and begin to build sustainable self-sufficiency. Each year, we serve over 2,000 survivors in three residential programs (Mary L. Foreman House Emergency Shelter, Transitional Living Program and Teen Parenting Program); housing assistance and advocacy; financial literacy education and job readiness skill building; individual and group counseling; legal advocacy and representation; children's services; and community-based advocacy. Casa Myrna also operates SafeLink, Massachusetts' statewide 24/7 toll-free domestic violence hotline that answers nearly 30,000 calls annually. We also provide domestic and dating violence awareness and prevention by educating teens and adults across the state through workshops, seminars, trainings, social media, engagement with the media and annual ad campaigns on mass transit systems.

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