

A Safe Home for Everyone RECEIVES CASH DONATION TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN Ashe County DURING ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

A Safe Home for Everyone receives part of a \$3 million nationwide grant from The Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation

A Safe Home for Everyone, a program of Ashe County Partnership for Children, was chosen to receive one of 150 grants awarded by a leading national anti-domestic violence organization, the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation (MKACF). The \$20,000 grant will be used to support shelter operations.

Shelters are feeling the impact of a weak economy. According to the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, shelter donations are down, but the need for services is increasing. To help make sure needs are met, the foundation started by the late Mary Kay Ash has donated a total of \$3 million in grants to shelters in all 50 states.

“This grant gives us much-needed financial support at A Safe Home for Everyone,” said Sarah Wolf, Executive Director of the Partnership. “The problem of domestic violence in Ashe County isn’t going away and neither is the need for funding. Programs to help battered women and their children require a lot of resources. We’re grateful that the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation is stepping up to the plate in helping us help families in Ashe County.”

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), domestic violence affects 1 in every 4 women in the United States. Nationally:

- The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, 4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services;
- Boys who witness domestic violence are *twice as likely* to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults;
- 84 percent of spousal abuse victims are female.

The statistics in North Carolina are just as startling. According to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV):

- In 2008, there were 104 domestic violence related homicides in North Carolina.

“A Safe Home for Everyone has helped so many women and their families in Ashe County. We know they will use these funds to benefit even more domestic violence survivors and their children,” said Jennifer Cook, MKACF board member. “Mary Kay Ash wanted her foundation to help enrich women’s lives. All the tragic stories and statistics we hear about domestic violence encourage us to do our part. We know A Safe Home for Everyone will use these funds to stop domestic violence, and provide help and hope to battered women and children in Ashe County.”

About the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation

The Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation was created in 1996 and its mission is two-fold: to fund research of cancers affecting women and help prevent domestic violence while raising awareness of the issue. Since the Foundation's inception, it has awarded nearly \$18 million to shelters and programs addressing domestic violence and \$10.8 million to cancer researchers and related causes throughout the United States. To learn more about the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation, log on to www.mkacf.org or call 1-877-MKCARES (652-2737).

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