



Family Services, Inc.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE BETTY ANN KRAHNKE CENTER RECEIVES \$20,000 AS PART OF \$3 MILLION NATIONWIDE GRANT FROM THE MARY KAY FOUNDATION TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

*Mary Kay shelter grant program to help many of the 61,000 domestic violence survivors assisted each day in the United States*

**(GAITHERSBURG, MD)** (September 23, 2011) – Family Services’ Betty Ann Krahnke Center has been chosen to receive a \$20,000 grant from The Mary Kay Foundation as part of the organization’s annual \$3 million national domestic violence grant program. The Betty Ann Krahnke Center is one of 150 domestic violence organizations participating in the program. The grant will be used to purchase and install commercial grade laundry machines, to improve the laundry and donation storage areas, and for operational support.

“This grant is such a blessing to the Betty Ann Krahnke Center in a variety of ways,” said Susan Ward, Clinical Director for the Betty Ann Krahnke Center. “Not only does it make up for a deficit in funding this year but also gives us hope and strength to continue what we do. Domestic violence is not going away and deserves very serious attention. Programs to help battered women and their children require a lot of resources. That’s why we are so thankful The Mary Kay Foundation is helping us help families in Montgomery County.”

**Domestic Violence Outlook**

According to the second “*Mary Kay Truth About Abuse*” national survey conducted in March 2011, domestic violence shelters indicate the economic downturn has increased demand for services. Shelters also report, the ability to raise funds and provide services will be hampered into 2012. Due to the economy, the survey also revealed:

- 80 percent of domestic violence shelters nationwide (more than three out of four) report an increase in women seeking assistance from abuse, and most attribute this to financial issues.
- 76 percent of domestic violence shelters (three out of four) indicate their funding has decreased.
- 65 percent of women in shelters can’t find employment due to the economy.
- 56 percent of shelters note the abuse is more violent now than before the economic downturn.

“In light of the economic downturn and alarming increases in domestic violence, The Mary Kay Foundation’s mission is more critical than ever before. The Betty Ann Krahnke Center has helped so many women and their families in the Montgomery County area. We know they will use these funds to benefit even more domestic violence survivors and their children and help end domestic violence,” said Jennifer Cook, The Mary Kay Foundation board member.

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**About The Betty Ann Krahnke Center**

The Betty Ann Krahnke Center (BAK) is the only emergency domestic violence shelter for women and their children in Montgomery County. With a 54-bed capacity, BAK provides a safe and confidential short-term residence for families fleeing domestic violence and/or victims of sexual assault. Services include crisis intervention, safety planning, victim advocacy services, counseling and therapeutic interpersonal skill-building, limited childcare and family strengthening activities. BAK’s multi-lingual staff of individual therapists and case managers works to eliminate the cycle of violence and empower women to create a new future for themselves and their children that is free of abuse, coercion and fear.

**About The Mary Kay Foundation**

The Mary Kay Foundation 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. Since the Foundation's inception, it has awarded \$28 million to shelters and programs addressing domestic violence prevention and more than \$16 million to cancer researchers and related causes throughout the United States. To learn more about The Mary Kay Foundation, log on to [www.marykayfoundation.org](http://www.marykayfoundation.org) or call 1-877-MKCARES (652-2737).