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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARY KAY ASH FOUNDATIONSM AWARDS SAFELIGHT A \$20,000 GRANT TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mary Kay Ash Foundation Awards \$1.2 Million in Grants to 60 Domestic Violence Shelters Across U.S. providing critical programs and services.

Hendersonville, N.C.- In support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Mary Kay Ash FoundationSM announced that it was awarding \$1.2 million in grants to 60 domestic violence shelters across the country. Safelight has received a \$20,000 unrestricted grant to support local survivors of domestic violence in Henderson County, North Carolina. This year's grant contribution brings the Foundation's total investment in its shelter grant program to \$56 million.

The Mary Kay Ash Foundation was established in 1996 with the overarching purpose of supporting issues impacting women. In 2000, the Foundation expanded to include ending domestic violence as part of its mission. The Foundation is committed to funding the life-saving work of women's shelters, and the annual shelter grant program has helped finance critical needs including emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling, and legal aid. All these resources support women and children as they seek refuge and relief on their journey to an abuse-free life. In 2023, more than 300 organizations applied for the Mary Kay Ash Foundation shelter grants.

"Mary Kay remains steadfast in its commitment to ending domestic violence. We believe women should be free to live safe, productive lives free from abuse," said Michael Lunceford, President, Mary Kay Ash Foundation Board of Directors. "One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime and it is our responsibility to support the women's shelters that aid these survivors. At the heart of the Foundation's work is the shelter grant program, which awards deserving organizations the funds needed to continue and improve their critical life-saving services in support of women."

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, more than 72,000 adult and child victims receive domestic violence services across the United States in just one day. Unfortunately, in the same period, more than 11,000 requests for services are unmet due to a lack of resources.

Safelight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that provides programs to those in Henderson County affected by interpersonal violence, abuse, and exploitation. Offering free and confidential services helping move survivors from crisis to sustainability. Since 1984, they have served over 45,000 survivors. For more information, visit www.safelightfamily.org.



Since 1984, Safelight has provided services to those in Henderson County affected by interpersonal violence, abuse, and exploitation. Through a continuum of programs, they help survivors begin the process of overcoming physical and emotional trauma. These programs include a 24/7 emergency shelter and hotline for survivors, a counseling center with individual and support group services, an accredited child advocacy center, a family advocacy center offering support in legal, law enforcement, and medical settings, a paid job training program onsite, and an outreach program for prevention and education in our community. By removing barriers, Safelight's services heal lives and create a safer, healthier community.

Safelight's executive director Lauren Wilkie shared how this funding was invaluable to Safelight's emergency shelter, "this funding has truly helped our shelter stabilize during a time of such extreme funding cuts from federal support grants. We are grateful to Mary Kay for their ongoing support to save survivors."

Applications for the 2024 shelter grant program will be available in January 2024. Please visit marykayashfoundation.org for more information, and to view the complete list of 2023 shelter grant recipients.

About the Mary Kay Ash FoundationSM

Guided by Mary Kay Ash's dream to enrich the lives of women everywhere, the Mary Kay Ash FoundationSM raises and distributes funds to end domestic violence and invest in breakthrough cancer research to find cures for women-related cancers. Since 1996, the Mary Kay Ash Foundation has contributed more than \$92 million to organizations aligned with its two-fold mission. In addition, the Foundation supports awareness initiatives, community outreach programs, and advocates for legislation to ensure women are healthy and safe. Together, we can make the world better for women. To learn more about how to educate, advocate, volunteer, donate, and join lifesaving work to support and empower women, visit marykayashfoundation.org, find us on Facebook and Instagram, or follow us on Twitter.

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