



## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

**Date:** October 8, 2015

**Contact:** Wendy Jacot  
Human Development Commission  
(989) 673-4121 ext. 1721

### **THE MARY KAY FOUNDATION<sup>SM</sup> AWARDS HDC A \$20,000 GRANT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS**

CARO, MICHIGAN: The Human Development Commission (HDC) and its local women's shelter, the Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center (ACC) that serves Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties, received a \$20,000 grant from The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup>. In observation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> awards \$20,000 grants to more than 150 domestic violence shelters across the country for a total of \$3 million.

HDC will use the grant to provide critical support at the shelter. ACC will provide services and connect domestic violence survivors with community resources essential for living violence free and becoming self-sufficient.

"We are very excited to be selected as a grant recipient", stated HDC Executive Director Lori K. Offenbecher. "Just as President Johnson's *War on Poverty* demonstrated the country's commitment to serve low-income residents, The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> demonstrates its commitment to break the cycle of domestic violence by funding shelters like ACC. Whether the challenge is ending poverty or ending domestic violence, the solution is the same – helping people help themselves."

ACC supports residential and non-residential survivors of domestic violence, plus their children and other family members, by offering a variety of services. ACC employs a three-tiered continuum of care model, beginning with crisis intervention services that respond to women's immediate (emergency) needs. These services include a 24-hour toll-free hotline, emergency shelter, transportation to shelter, medical advocacy, and on-site counseling. The continuum transitions to meet women's intermediate (stabilizing) needs through on- and off-site individual/group counseling, children's services, legal advocacy, financial/entitlement benefits counseling, housing location assistance, and information and referral. The continuum's final tier responds to women's longer-term (self-sufficiency) needs. During the final tier, women emerge as courageous survivors and have opportunities to volunteer, help others, and speak out in their communities.

"The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> is committed to breaking the cycle of domestic violence," said Anne Crews, Mary Kay Inc. Vice President of Government Relations and board member for The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup>. "Through our grants, we honor and support shelters across the country that are having a profound impact for women and children in their communities". Since 2000, The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> has donated \$35.6 million to domestic violence organizations through its annual shelter grant program.

### **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. Since the Foundation's inception, it has awarded nearly \$64.2 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>, visit [marykayfoundation.org](http://marykayfoundation.org) or call 1-877-MKCARES (652-2737).

### **About the Human Development Commission**

HDC is a rural, nonprofit Community Action Agency dedicated to alleviating poverty in the "thumb" area of east central Michigan. Incorporated in 1965, the agency is

committed to helping people achieve self-sufficiency as conditions of abuse, homelessness, hunger, joblessness, and other life crises are ameliorated. The agency maintains its grassroots heritage by including low-income individuals and families as stakeholders in programming decisions and service choices. The agency administers more than 70 diverse programs, and service delivery is designed to change the lives of individuals, families, and communities, especially low-income households and neighborhoods. To learn more about the Human Development Commission, visit [www.hdc-caro.org](http://www.hdc-caro.org) or call 1-800-843-6394.

###