

## Connecting families & communities through safety & hope

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, September 25, 2013 FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: SUSAN ROBERTSON (936) 639-1681 OR

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## THE FAMILY CRISIS CENTER OF EAST TEXAS RECEIVES \$20,000 GRANT FROM THE MARY KAY FOUNDATION<sup>SM</sup>

In advance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, <u>The Mary Kay Foundation SM</u> has awarded \$3 million in grants to 150 domestic violence shelters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The Family Crisis Center of East Texas received one of the \$20,000 unrestricted grants to maintain critical services and programs for individuals who are survivors of domestic abuse.

Each year, grants are awarded to at least one domestic violence shelter in every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Remaining grants are distributed based on state population, with Texas receiving a total of 10 grants.

The Family Crisis Center of East Texas continues to advance its mission of enhancing the safety of women, children and men by providing crisis intervention and advocacy services to reduce and prevent the occurrence of family violence and sexual assault through education and community awareness. The agency provides numerous services and last year alone provided 1,154 residential and non-residential clients with over 75,000 essential services. The funds received from The Mary Kay Foundation will be used for general operations

"Our staff, volunteers and clients are so thankful for this grant from the Mary Kay Foundation," said Heather Kartye, Executive Director for the Family Crisis Center of East Texas. "We've provided a safe haven for women who have fled abusive relationships for the past 34 years and this grant will go a long way in helping us serve the growing needs of East Texas."

For nearly 20 years, The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> has supported the prevention and elimination of domestic violence, an epidemic that touches one in every four women in her lifetime. Through the Foundation's annual shelter grant program, \$34 million has been granted to domestic violence organizations since 2000.

"The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup> is proud to support local shelters that are on the front lines of helping the thousands of women and children who seek shelter and support from abuse," said Anne Crews, Vice President of Government Relations for Mary Kay Inc. and board member for The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup>. "The shelter grants are a signature program for The Mary Kay Foundation and represent just one of the ways we are committed to breaking the cycle of domestic violence."

## 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 \$34 million to shelters and programs addressing domestic violence prevention and more than \$20 million to cancer researchers and related causes throughout the United States. To learn more about The Mary Kay Foundation<sup>SM</sup>, please visit <a href="www.marykayfoundation.org">www.marykayfoundation.org</a> or call 1-877-MKCARES (652-2737).

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