



News Release

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Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Berryman Rodriguez
404.870.9605/404.273.0008
or Terri Evans 404.593-8064; terri@bcauz.com

Local nonprofit awarded grant in support of emergency intervention Avon Foundation for Women Speak Out Against Domestic Violence

ATLANTA – December 6, 2010 – The [Avon Foundation for Women](#) has awarded Atlanta-based Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) \$23,000 for general operating support of its safe house program which provides life saving intervention services for women and children in imminent danger of domestic violence. The Avon Foundation has supported PADV for more than a decade. The grant is part of an annual Avon Foundation for Women program that invites Avon regional branch offices across the United States to nominate local non-profit organizations for funding under the [Avon Foundation for Women Speak Out Against Domestic Violence](#) program.

PADV operates a 24-hour crisis line and two emergency shelters, the only two state certified safe houses in the city of Atlanta and Gwinnett County. PADV offers legal advocacy; support groups for women and children; parenting classes; children and youth programs; supportive housing; a teen dating violence prevention program, and access to free medical services to repair facial injuries caused by intimate partner violence. Last year, PADV fielded 14,929 calls through its crisis lines; sheltered 476 battered women and children for a total of 18,674 bed nights (the number of times PADV beds were used) and provided more than 25,000 supportive services to 2,620 individuals.

“With these funds PADV will continue to provide shelter and support to survivors and help them develop life-sustaining skills,” said Cathy Willis Spraez, president & chief executive officer, PADV. “We help survivors rebuild their lives to become self sufficient for themselves and their families.”

Avon and the Avon Foundation for Women launched the Speak Out Against Domestic Violence program in 2004 to help end the cycle of domestic violence. Through the end of 2010, in the U.S. alone, the Avon Foundation for Women has provided more than \$23 million for the domestic violence and gender violence causes, including support for awareness, education, direct service and prevention programs.

“The Avon Foundation for Women is committed to help end the cycle of domestic violence and is proud to support PADV in its work to help survivors in metro Atlanta” says Carol Kurzig, president, Avon Foundation for Women. “It is through the combination of local and national efforts that we can work to eradicate domestic violence and ensure safety for all women and families.”

About PADV: Celebrating its 35th anniversary, PADV is the largest and one of the oldest nonprofit domestic violence agencies in Georgia. Serving metro Atlanta, PADV helps to transform the lives of 18,000 women and children every year through emergency intervention, violence prevention and long-term advocacy. PADV’s mission is to end the crime of intimate partner violence and empower its survivors. Visit padv.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Intimate Partner Violence in Georgia: Intimate partner violence is widespread. In 2009, there were 125 domestic violence related homicides in Georgia, which was a 12 percent increase over the previous year. Georgia is 10th in the nation for its rate of men killing women. There were 72,185 crisis calls to Georgia’s certified domestic violence agencies in 2009. One in four women will experience intimate partner violence.

About the Avon Foundation for Women and Speak Out Against Domestic Violence

The [Avon Foundation for Women](#), an accredited 501(c)(3) public charity, was founded in 1955 to improve the lives of women, and brings this mission to life through focus on two key issues: breast cancer and domestic violence. Through 2010, Avon global philanthropy has donated more than \$800 million in more than 50 countries for causes most important to women. The Avon Foundation's flagship programs include the [Avon Breast Cancer Crusade](#) and the *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program, which supports domestic violence awareness, education, direct services and prevention initiatives. Through the end of 2010, in the U.S. alone, the Avon Foundation for Women has provided more than \$23 million for the domestic violence and gender violence causes, including support for awareness, education, direct service and prevention programs. Fundraising projects include special products sold by Avon Sales Representatives and at [avonfoundation.org](#). The *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program has expanded globally to more than 50 countries to help save lives worldwide.

To learn more about the Avon Foundation for Women *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program, visit [www.avonfoundation.org](#), where you can also access a free printable *Domestic Violence and Dating Abuse Resource Guide* in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

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