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**NEW HORIZONS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES RECEIVES  
\$20,000 GRANT FROM THE MARY KAY FOUNDATION TO  
COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CONNECTICUT**

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

**MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (September 28, 2010)** – New Horizons Domestic Violence Services, a program of Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC), 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. New Horizons is one of 150 domestic violence organizations participating in the program. The grant will provide critical support for New Horizon’s clients, including rent payments, security deposits, utility payments, motel bills for emergency shelter, children’s day care and camp needs and transportation costs.

New Horizons provides a 24-hour emergency shelter for victims fleeing domestic abuse, as well as community education, support groups, individual counseling and consultation with CHC’s health care providers.

“This grant will help New Horizons continue to provide comprehensive domestic violence services to the more than 1,450 victims of abuse we work with each year,” said Michele Waldner, program director at New Horizons. “Programs to help domestic violence victims and their families require a lot of resources, and domestic violence is unfortunately not going away. It deserves serious attention and support. We are very grateful for The Mary Kay Foundation’s assistance.”

According to the second “Mary Kay Truth About Abuse” national survey conducted in March 2010, 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 2011. Due to the economy, the survey also revealed:

- 88 percent of domestic violence shelters expect their overall situation will worsen or remain the same until 2011.
- Three out of four domestic violence shelters (77 percent) report an increase in women seeking assistance from abuse.
- 51 percent of shelters nationwide 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. New Horizons has helped so many women and their families throughout Middlesex County. 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.

**About Community Health Center, Inc.**

Since 1972, Community Health Center, Inc. has been one of the leading healthcare providers in the state of Connecticut, building a world-class primary health care system committed to caring for special populations. CHC is focused on improving health outcomes for its more than 100,000 patients as well as building healthy communities. Currently, CHC delivers service in 173 locations statewide, offering primary care in medical, dental and behavioral health services. For more information, visit [www.chc1.com](http://www.chc1.com).

**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 nearly \$25 million to shelters and programs addressing domestic violence prevention and more than \$14 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).

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