

# Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services

Of Chatham County



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FAMILY VIOLENCE & RAPE CRISIS SERVICES RECEIVES PART OF \$3 MILLION NATIONWIDE GRANT FROM THE MARY KAY FOUNDATION

PITTSBORO, NC – Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services' (FVRC) shelter, the Garden Place, 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. The Garden Place is one of 150 domestic violence organizations participating in the program. The grant will be used to support programs and services at the Garden Place.

"This grant is such a blessing to the Garden Place in a variety of ways," said Kathy Hodges, FVRC co-executive director. "This grant could not have come at a better time. With the challenges of today's economy and the state funding crisis, these funds will help us keep critical services in place. Domestic violence is increasing and deserves very serious attention. That's why we are so thankful The Mary Kay Foundation is helping us help families in Chatham County."

The economic climate has not only caused a decrease in donations but has increases the need for domestic violence services. In May 2009, *Mary Kay's Truth About Abuse* survey of domestic violence shelters across the country revealed some alarming results: three out of four domestic violence shelters reported an increase in women seeking assistance from abuse since September 2008, the major turning point in the U.S. economy. The survey data directly connects the downturn in the economy to an increase in domestic violence.

"In light of the economic downturn and alarming increases in domestic violence, The Mary Kay Foundation's mission is more critical than ever before. The Garden Place shelter has helped so many women

and their families in Chatham 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, a Mary Kay Foundation board member.

#### **About Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services**

Since 1982, Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services (FVRC) has provided services to battered women and sexual assault victims in Chatham County, N.C. FVRC assists victims and their families through services such as a 24-hour crisis intervention line, a shelter, court advocacy, support groups, counseling and education programs. The Coalition for Family Peace was founded in 1997 to promote a coordinated community response to domestic and sexual violence. Today, the Coalition has more than 80 members representing organizations throughout Chatham County including the justice, health care, educational, and human services systems, faith-based communities and businesses. All aspects of the project are English-Spanish bilingual. For more information about FVRC or the Coalition, please visit [www.fvrc.org](http://www.fvrc.org).

#### **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 \$22 million to shelters and programs addressing domestic violence prevention and \$13 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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