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PADV awarded Avon Foundation Speak Out Against Domestic Violence Grant

Funding received from nationwide Avon Foundation Grants Program to support local battered women's program

ATLANTA, November 20, 2008 – The Avon Foundation has awarded a \$40,000 one-year grant to Partnership Against Domestic Violence to provide lifesaving services to domestic violence survivors and their children in metro Atlanta. It is the second year that PADV has received Avon Foundation funding to support its shelter and community-based programs and services.

As the largest and one of the oldest nonprofit domestic violence organizations in Georgia, PADV operates the only two emergency shelters for battered women and their children in Fulton and Gwinnett Counties. Additional essential services include 24-hour crisis line, supportive housing, teen dating violence prevention, legal advocacy, support groups, and access to free medical services to repair facial injuries caused by domestic violence.

Last year, PADV provided safe shelter to 547 women and their children, fielded more than 10,000 calls to its crisis line, reached out to 4,272 teens and youth leaders with vital information on healthy relationships and served 745 children in its Children and Youth program.

These crucial services are particularly important in metro Atlanta because Georgia ranks tenth in the nation for the rate of men killing women with handguns. Consider these facts:

- From August 2007 through August 2008, there were 83 deaths in Georgia as a result of intimate partner violence.
- In 2007, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation reported 55,000 cases of family violence in the state.
- Gwinnett County had the highest number of women murdered by men in 2007.
- One in four women will experience domestic violence.

“We are proud that for the second year in a row, the Avon Foundation has chosen to support PADV’s critical programs and services that have helped thousands of women and children live violence free. With these funds, PADV will provide shelter, clothing and food to battered women and their children, and help survivors develop life-sustaining skills to rebuild their lives,” said Cathy Willis Spratz, president and CEO of PADV.

Since the launch of the Speak Out Against Domestic Violence program in 2004, the Avon Foundation has awarded more than 90 grants totaling over \$4 million to domestic violence organizations across the United States, including Partnership Against Domestic Violence.

“The Avon Foundation is committed to speaking out against domestic violence and is proud to support PADV in its work to help domestic violence survivors living in metro Atlanta” said Carol Kurzig, executive director, Avon Foundation.

About Partnership Against Domestic Violence

For more than 30 years, PADV has provided professional, compassionate, and empowering support to battered women and their children in metro Atlanta. PADV offers safety and restores power and control to domestic violence survivors through violence prevention, emergency intervention and long-term advocacy. Support includes a 24-hour crisis line, two emergency shelters in metro Atlanta, supportive housing, support groups, legal advocacy, and a teen dating violence prevention program. To learn more about domestic violence and PADV visit www.padv.org.

The Avon Foundation and Speak Out Against Domestic Violence

The Avon Foundation, an accredited 501(c)(3) public charity, was founded in 1955 to improve the lives of women and their families, and through 2007 Avon philanthropy worldwide has raised and awarded more than \$580 million. Flagship programs of the Foundation are the *Avon Breast Cancer Crusade* and the *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program, which supports domestic violence awareness, education, direct services and prevention initiatives. Fundraising projects include the *Need for Speed Relay Against Domestic Violence* and special products sold by Avon Sales Representatives and at avonfoundation.org. Global expansion has brought the *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program to a dozen countries to help save lives worldwide. To learn more about the Avon Foundation *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program, visit www.avonfoundation.org, where you can also access the free printable *Domestic Violence Resource Guide* in English and Spanish.

To learn more about the Avon Foundation Speak Out Against Domestic Violence program, call 1-866-505-AVON or visit www.avonfoundation.org, where you can also access the free printable *Domestic Violence Resource Guide* in English and Spanish.

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