

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HCWC Receives \$140,000 Grant from the St. David's Foundation to Counsel Victims of Abuse

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS: The St. David's Foundation announced this week that it will grant \$140,000 to the Hays-Caldwell Women's Center (HCWC) during 2012-2013 to support professional counseling for victims of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse who reside in Caldwell and Hays counties. It is the largest donation yet furnished to HCWC by the St. David's Foundation.

"The St. David's Foundation has enabled HCWC to maintain counseling services for our ever-larger population of clients in an environment of steep government cuts to victims' services," said Marla Johnson, HCWC Executive Director. "The St. David's Foundation is a proactive partner with HCWC in addressing the needs of local victims of abuse, and we want everyone in central Texas to be aware of their incredible commitment to our community."

Last year, HCWC provided free counseling and advocacy services to 645 victims who benefitted from 4,487 counseling sessions, all provided completely free-of-charge. All told, the San Marcos-based non-profit provided free face-to-face services to 1,453 victims last year, in addition to responding to 2,124 HELpline telephone calls.

"The St. David's Foundation is pleased to again support HCWC's counseling program,"

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said Earl Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer with the Austin-based foundation. "HCWC addresses critical needs provided by no other organization in their area. We are proud to partner with HCWC on our 'Healthy Minds' initiative, which supports behavior health programs in schools, health clinics and community non-profits," said Maxwell.

HCWC maintains 8 professional counselors on its staff who counsel adults and children. "Many victims cannot truly recover without counseling," according to Marla Johnson. "Survivors of interpersonal violence are at risk of suffering debilitating damage to their emotional health and developmental growth, which can last a lifetime and undermine relationships related to family, friends and career. Counseling can help them overcome the effects of these crimes."

In response, HCWC's counselors help victims to process their experiences, to begin healing, and to find the strength and tools they need to resume a productive life. In addition, all HCWC clients are eligible to receive HCWC's advocacy services including legal advocacy, referrals for jobs, housing, food resources and victims' compensation. HCWC also provides a family violence shelter, children's advocacy center (Roxanne's House), a 24-hour HELpline (512-396-HELP) and abuse prevention programs.

The Hays-Caldwell Women's Center is supported by the communities it serves in Hays and Caldwell counties through contributions from local governments, state and federal grants, United Way and individual contributions of time and money. The cornerstone of the agency's continued success is community support and involvement. For more information about HCWC programs call (512) 396-3404 or visit www.hcwc.org.