



P. O. Box 234
San Marcos, TX 78667-0234
Phone: 512.396.3404
Fax: 512.353-2018

Press Release

Contact: Charles Vestal
Title: Director of Development
and Community Partnerships
Phone: 512.396.3404 ext. 260

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2011

Demand for Abuse Victims' Services Exceeds Resources; Public Urged to "Stop the Hurt" for Survivors, HCWC

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS: The Hays-Caldwell Women's Center has seen demand for victims' services increase 17 percent in 2011, at the same time that government cutbacks have slashed the not-for-profit's overall budget by 10 percent, necessitating a staff reduction of two and one-half full-time front line positions.

"Everyone who wants to be 'tough on crime' is urged to help HCWC assist the nearly 1,500 victims we serve face-to-face each year," said Marla Johnson, Executive Director of the not-for-profit which is headquartered in San Marcos and serves Caldwell and Hays counties. "We are asking donors to 'Stop the Hurt,' Johnson added. "Abuse victims are hurting, and frankly HCWC is hurting for resources," she said. The center recently eliminated positions in victim advocacy services and sexual assault prevention.

HCWC directly assists survivors of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse, all without charge. This year the center served 1,453 victims face-to-face with counseling, legal advocacy and shelter, an increase of 17% over last year's 1,247 victims served.

The "Stop the Hurt" campaign asks the public to choose from a menu of 10 actions that will help HCWC sustain services. People are urged to gift dollars, in-kind items and major retailer gift cards, conduct food drives for the McCoy Shelter kitchen, involve

(Continued Next Page)

PRESS RELEASE / HAYS-CALDWELL WOMEN'S CENTER
PAGE 2 OF 2 / OCTOBER 31, 2011

others in the cause, volunteer time and arrange HCWC representatives to speak before groups. The full list can be viewed at www.hcwc.org. Personal checks can be mailed to HCWC, P.O. Box 234, San Marcos, Texas 78667.

HCWC will kick off the "Stop the Hurt" campaign at its Annual Meeting to be held on Monday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Price Seniors Center, 222 W. San Antonio Street, San Marcos. Speakers will include Sheriff Gary Cutler, Hays County Sheriff's Office; Ray and Mary Gail Jacobson, HCWC volunteers; Sherri Tibbe, Hays County District Attorney; Brian McCoy, McCoy's Building Supply; Nancy Lewis, Grande Communications; Kim Porterfield, San Marcos City Council; and a former HCWC client. The general public is invited to attend.

At the Annual Meeting, those who have supported HCWC in the past 12 months are eligible to vote on the proposed slate of Board member appointments which includes John Lairsen, Don Lee, Carolyn Linér, Alice Lochman, Marsha Moore, Frederick Rucker, Debra Schliem, Karolyn Tybor and Jonnie Wilson. In addition, HCWC will honor its volunteers of the year including Milena Christopher, Catherine Difonzo-Shellman, Kristina Frederick, Craig Handley, Amanda Lewis and Rachel Tocker.

HCWC's approximately \$1.5 million annual cash budget is derived from private support, government contracts, grants from municipalities in its two-county service area and the United Way of Hays County. HCWC operates a 50-person-capacity family violence shelter, the Children's Advocacy Center known as Roxanne's House, counseling and legal advocacy services offices in San Marcos and Lockhart plus a 24-hour HELPLine (512-396-HELP).

The Hays-Caldwell Women's Center has entered its 34th year of serving men, women and children in Hays and Caldwell Counties who are victims of abuse including family violence, sexual assault and child abuse. All HCWC services are free and confidential. For more information please visit www.hcwc.org or call (512) 396-HELP.

####