



Media Contact:

Pat Davenport
Executive Director
A Safe Place
2710 17th Street, Suite 100
Zion, IL 60099
Office: 847-731-7165, ext. 105
Email: pdavenport@asafeplaceforhelp.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 20, 2017

**A Safe Place Expands Counseling Services to
Underserved Families of Domestic Violence**

Healthcare Foundation grant allows even more survivors to access mental healthcare

LAKE COUNTY, IL – A Safe Place (ASP) will expand its mental health and therapeutic services for domestic violence survivors and their children thanks to two generous grants for a total of \$105,000 from the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County.

One of the awards for \$85,000 will go toward Comprehensive Counseling Services for domestic violence survivors and their children and includes a matching \$25,000 grant. The second grant for \$20,000 will be put toward applying for Medicaid certification.

A Safe Place is Lake County's sole provider of services exclusively focusing on domestic violence victims. Through multi-faceted programs, A Safe Place provides lifesaving services to victims and their children, assists the whole family in transforming their lives after domestic violence, prevents future abuse by addressing its root cause through abuser intervention programs, and educates the community about domestic violence and how we can all be involved in its end. Last year, A Safe Place served over 13,000 community members.

The Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County (HFNLC) supports efforts that improve access to health services for underserved Lake County, Illinois, residents. They strive to improve the health status of uninsured, underinsured, and medically underserved residents, addressing gaps in health services; increasing the capacity of effective organizations and programs; and fostering innovative solutions to persistent healthcare access problems.

“The need for services for survivors of domestic violence in Lake County is high. One out four women and one out of seven men are affected by domestic violence- that is over 88,000 of our neighbors,” said Pat Davenport, Executive Director of A Safe Place. “Since we opened in 1978, and despite budget cuts over the years, over 30,000 adults and tens of thousands of children have received services.”

A Safe Place currently provides behavioral health services to victims of domestic violence and child witnesses through licensed staff who are licensed Psychologists, have a Masters in Social Work, or have a comparable degree. These behavioral health services provide necessary individual and family counseling, support groups, art therapy, safety planning, and guidance in accessing resources and achieving self-sufficiency to victims of domestic violence and their children.

Each year ASP provides counseling to over 500 adult survivors and almost 200 child survivors of domestic violence through the Counseling Program, the majority of which reside in underserved neighborhoods and communities in Lake County, and are usually uninsured or under-insured.

As funding from the State of Illinois decreases, the grant from the HFNLC is needed now more than ever. The funds will allow A Safe Place to maintain Medicaid certification, which helps cover costs for these services.

In addition, the growth of the Latino community in Lake County has led to an increased need for bilingual, bi-cultural services. With initial funding from Baxter International Foundation, A Safe Place, in partnership with Mano a Mano (www.manoamanofamilyresourcecenter.org), is expanding counseling services to victims of domestic violence in Spanish by bi-cultural staff with the new La Paloma Program. Through this program, victims can receive counseling in their first language and assistance with issues such as immigration or the rights of victims under the law.

“Budgetary and cultural limitations should not prevent anyone from receiving the physical, mental, and emotional care they need,” said Davenport. “Counseling helps survivors recognize their own strength and self-worth, breaking the cycle of power and control that has dominated their lives.”

“We are so grateful to the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County. This grant will help us to remove the barriers that survivors of domestic violence and their children would otherwise face when attempting to access mental healthcare.”

For more information about ASP’s counseling program or services, call 847-731-7165 or visit www.asafeplaceforhelp.org. For more information on the HFNLC, visit www.hfnlc.org.

#####

Founded in 1978, A Safe Place is the leading advocate for eliminating domestic violence in northern Illinois, and is Lake County, Illinois’ only provider of services exclusively for victims of domestic violence. A Safe Place provides emergency shelter, permanent housing, a 24-hour crisis line (847-249-4450), court and non-legal advocacy, individual, group, and children’s counseling, art therapy, family visitation services, batterer intervention services; and community outreach, prevention education, and professional training. Our service area includes Lake, McHenry, and northern Cook counties in Illinois; however, our clients come to us from across the state, region, and country.

For more information about A Safe Place, visit www.asafeplaceforhelp.org, [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).