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**Safe Horizon Awarded \$250,000
Avon Foundation for Women *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* Grant**

***Avon Foundation for Women Awards Grant to Expand
Counseling Program to Help Reduce Trauma Found in Child Victims of Domestic Violence***

NEW YORK, NY / August 31, 2012 – The [Avon Foundation for Women](#) has awarded a \$250,000 grant to Safe Horizon to expand its implementation of evidence-based interventions into its nine domestic violence shelters throughout New York City’s five boroughs. [Safe Horizon](#), the largest provider of domestic violence services in the country, most recently implemented the highly successful Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention (CFTSI), a program that provides counseling intervention services to children who have experienced severe abuse, in its four nationally accredited Child Advocacy Centers.

This 2012 grant is the latest of four grants totaling \$395,000 that the Avon Foundation has awarded Safe Horizon for its domestic violence work. This grant is part of the Avon [Speak Out Against Domestic Violence](#) program, which launched in 2004 to help end the cycle of domestic violence. The Avon Foundation for Women has provided more than \$28 million for domestic and gender violence programs in the United States, including support for awareness, education, direct service and prevention.

The expansion of Safe Horizon’s evidence-based intervention models stems from the need to reduce the extremely high levels of traumatic stress suffered by victims of domestic violence and abuse. Studies have found that children exposed to domestic violence at home show greater symptoms of trauma, including becoming sick more often and being lethargic. The new pilot program will enable the organization to support more than 3,000 children living in Safe Horizon domestic violence shelters throughout New York City, and will further ensure that all children living in Safe Horizon’s shelters have access to services that will reduce traumatic stress as a result of witnessing family violence.

“Through our work with the Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention at Safe Horizon’s Child Advocacy Centers, we are seeing that children can heal from serious trauma with the right types of treatment and support,” said Ariel Zwang, CEO, Safe Horizon. “We are extremely grateful to the Avon Foundation for Women for helping us to bring proven models of treatment like CFTSI to children in our domestic violence shelters that will alleviate the suffering of children, empower abused women to be the source of healing for their children and prevent life-long negative consequences.”

“The Avon Foundation for Women is committed to helping end the cycle of domestic violence and is proud to support Safe Horizon in its work to help child victims in New York City,” said Carol Kurzig, president of the Avon Foundation for Women. “It is through the combination of local, national and international efforts that we can work to eradicate domestic violence and ensure safety for all children and their families.”

Since 1978, Safe Horizon has been serving victims of domestic violence and child abuse crimes in New York City and providing models for programs across the country and around the world. Its staff provides critical technical assistance, education and training to service providers, government organizations, corporations and the media worldwide. Based on the success of the evidence-based interventions in its shelters, Safe Horizon plans to create counseling intervention models for replication in domestic violence shelters nationwide.

About Safe Horizon

[Safe Horizon](#) is the largest victims’ services agency in the United States, with more than 60 locations serving more than 250,000 children, adults and families affected by crime and abuse throughout New York City each year. Safe Horizon is recognized as a national leader and expert on violence and victimization, and provides models for programs across the country and around the world. Whether responding to child abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, rape and sexual assault or other violent crimes, Safe Horizon provides the practical tools, emotional support, education and advocacy to help victims and their families heal and rebuild their lives.

The Avon Foundation for Women and Speak Out Against Domestic Violence

The [Avon Foundation for Women](#), an accredited 501(c)(3) public charity, was founded in 1955 to improve the lives of women, and brings this mission to life through focus on two key issues: breast cancer and domestic violence. Through 2011, Avon global philanthropy has donated more than \$860 million in more than 50 countries for causes most important to women. The Avon Foundation’s flagship programs include the [Avon Breast Cancer Crusade](#) and the *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program, which supports domestic violence awareness, education, direct services and prevention initiatives. Through the end of 2011, in the U.S. alone, the Avon Foundation for Women has provided more than \$28 million for the domestic violence and gender violence causes, including support for awareness, education, direct service and prevention programs. Fundraising projects include special products sold by Avon Sales Representatives and at [avonfoundation.org](#). The *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program has expanded globally to more than 50 countries to help save lives worldwide.

For more Information

For more information on Safe Horizon and domestic violence services, as well as the Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention (CFTSI), visit Safe Horizon’s web site at [www.safehorizon.org](#).

To learn more about the Avon Foundation for Women *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program, visit [www.avonfoundation.org](#), where you can also access a free printable *Domestic Violence and Dating Abuse Resource Guide* in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

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