

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Tania Davila
(212) 410-9080
tdavila@vipmujeres.org

Violence Intervention Program, Inc. (VIP) Awarded the Avon Foundation for Women Speak Out Against Domestic Violence Grant for Avon Domestic Violence Survivor Empowerment Program



NEW YORK CITY, NY/2012) - The Avon Foundation for Women has awarded a \$65,000 one-year grant to Violence Intervention Program, Inc. in support of its Avon Domestic Violence Survivor Empowerment Program, which provides annual funding for 20 full-time coordinator positions in domestic violence agencies across the United States.

The 2013 Avon Domestic Violence Survivor Empowerment Program is part of the Avon Speak Out Against Domestic Violence Initiative, which launched in 2004 to help end the cycle of domestic violence. The Avon Foundation for

Women has donated \$33 million for domestic and gender violence programs in the United States, including support for awareness, education, direct service and prevention.

The Avon Domestic Violence Survivor Empowerment Program's coordinator position at Violence Intervention Program, Inc. will support victims in the New York City area by providing domestic violence survivors with the critical resources and economic empowerment tools necessary to develop self-sufficiency and guide them toward breaking the cycle of abuse, once and for all. These vital services will also support the women as they begin their own businesses and develop into leaders who serve as community educators to further improve outcomes for women.

"We are proud that the Avon Foundation for Women shares our mission and has chosen to support our Avon Domestic Violence Survivor Empowerment Program's coordinator position. With these funds, we will be able to ensure that VIP will continue to build its capacity to address the economic empowerment of survivors and help them build confidence, gain control of their financial lives, and establish lasting independence," said Cecilia M. Gaston, Executive Director, Violence Intervention Program, Inc.

"The Avon Foundation for Women is committed to helping end the cycle of domestic violence and is proud to support Violence Intervention Program, Inc. in its work to help provide domestic violence victims with the resources and tools necessary to become more self-sufficient. With the help of these hands-on coordinators, we hope that more women in New York City can end the cycle of abuse, once and for all, and ensure safety for themselves and their families," said Avon Foundation for Women President Carol Kurzig.

Since June 2010, Violence Intervention Program, Inc. has provided economic empowerment services and support to more than 1,500 victims of domestic violence. Through the Economic Empowerment Initiative, financial development services are provided to over 1,000 survivors of domestic violence annually that assist families with strategies and resources to increase assets, create financial goals, and reduce debt and maintain their permanent housing.

Around the world, at least one in every three women has experienced some form of partner violence or abuse during her lifetime. Reports confirm that domestic violence victims are less likely to leave and stay away from abusers if they have limited hope of achieving independent economic stability. Programs such as the Avon Domestic Violence Survivor Empowerment Program help make an immediate, tangible difference in the lives of domestic violence survivors by providing hands-on guidance and assistance to help them create independent, violence free-lives for themselves, their families, and future generations.

About Violence Intervention Program, Inc.

Violence Intervention Program, Inc., (VIP) was founded in 1984 as a grassroots East Harlem initiative to address the growing prevalence of domestic violence within the Latino community. VIP provides a continuum of services to over 1,000 survivors of domestic violence and 500 victims of other crimes and our hotlines respond to over 10,000 calls for help each year. All services are free, confidential and are offered in Spanish and in English. VIP provides services to Latinas and other

women healing from the trauma of domestic violence in a culturally competent environment that is supportive, non-judgmental and respectful of each woman's right to self determination. We promote social change and believe that we can change societies attitudes by developing public awareness in the Latino communities.

Strategically positioned with a culturally relevant perspective and bilingual capacity, VIP fills an enormous gap in services that are geared to the special needs of battered Latinas and their children. While our underlying mission is to serve battered Latinas, our programs encompass concepts that resonate with a multitude of battered victims--empowerment, self determination, and cultural competency. VIP is the only organization that focuses exclusively on domestic violence in the Latino community, with a direct services staff that is completely bilingual/bicultural. Although we provide crisis intervention and stabilization services to New York City inhabitants, our influence has radiated globally as well. Working with other domestic violence prevention agencies, VIP has played an instrumental role in raising the consciousness of the general public about this critical social issue--one which crosses all class lines and ethnicities--and which ultimately resulted in the passing of the federal Violence Against Women's Act in 1994, that is now up for re-authorization once again.

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. Avon global philanthropy has donated more than \$910 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. The Avon Foundation has donated \$33 million in the United States to support awareness, education, direct service and prevention programs aimed at reducing domestic and gender violence. Globally, Avon supports efforts to end violence against women by raising funds through special product sales and raising awareness through events and with educational information disseminated by 6 million global Avon Representatives.

For more Information

For more information on the Economic Empowerment Initiative at Violence Intervention Program, Inc., please call 1-800-664-5880 or visit www.vipmujeres.org. For more information about domestic violence services, contact the **National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)** or online at www.ndvh.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.