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Verizon Pledging \$100,000 in Nonprofit Grants

By Robin Brown, The News Journal

A communications company is offering grants totaling more than \$100,000 to nonprofit efforts to reduce domestic violence.

The grants aim to help organizations start new prevention programs, expand existing ones or add facilities to better serve clients, officials of the Verizon Foundation said Wednesday.

“Domestic violence is an issue that affects women, men and families regardless of their social or economic backgrounds,” Verizon Delaware President William R. Allan said. “We are proud of the strong stand our company has taken in the First State on this important issue. And, we will continue our efforts to put an end to domestic violence.”

Last year, the Verizon Foundation gave domestic violence program grants to the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Domestic Violence Advocacy Center and Child Inc.

To be eligible for the next round of grants, groups must have federal certification of nonprofit status with the 501(c)3 approval that makes donations to them tax-deductible.

The deadline to apply is Sept. 1.

Grants are to be announced in early October by the foundation, which is the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications and Verizon Wireless.

Confronting pervasive problem

The foundation also supports literacy, technology and volunteering.

But what the foundation labels as “chilling” are the statistics it uses to show the need for grants to fight domestic violence:

- One in four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime.
- Domestic violence is the single largest cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44 in the United States – more than muggings, car accidents and rapes combined.
- Research shows about 900,000 parents are beaten or abused by their children each year.

- Among teens, an estimated 57 percent know someone who has been physically, sexually or verbally abusive in a dating relationship.
- The workplace costs of domestic violence top \$10 billion a year in absenteeism, lost productivity, and medical or mental-health care.

In all areas of philanthropy last year, the foundation gave more than \$74 million in grants to charity and nonprofit groups around the world.

Anyone can make a difference

Verizon Wireless' HopeLine program also recycles unwanted cell phones and accessories – no matter how outdated – to benefit victims of domestic violence and advocacy agencies, providing emergency phones for victims as well as financial aid.

In five years, more than 3 million phones have been collected, providing more than \$10 million in aid to anti-domestic violence efforts.

“Our grants provide much-needed funding so organizations can continue making a positive impact in the community,” said Christine Baron, president of Verizon Wireless' Philadelphia Tri-State region.

She also said the foundation recognizes those on the fight's front line statewide: “We applaud the work that outstanding Delaware organizations perform each day in the areas of domestic violence education and prevention.”

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP

If you're in danger, call 911.

Otherwise, call a Delaware Domestic Violence Hotline:

New Castle County: **762-6110**

Kent/Sussex counties: **422-8058**

ANTI-VIOLENCE GRANTS

Nonprofit groups may submit grant proposals to fight domestic violence at www.verizon.com/foundation. Applicants should click on “apply online,” then on “click here to begin,” and add the invitation code: 472NXAZKHF. The deadline to apply is midnight Sept. 1.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Verizon Foundation or its programs to support anti-domestic violence efforts, literacy, technology and volunteering, visit www.verizon.com/foundation. The site also offers a resource center to help nonprofit organizations of all types.

CELL PHONES AID VICTIMS

The Verizon Wireless HopeLine program recycles all brands of cell phones, regardless of manufacturer, service provider, age or condition. Donations – including sale of parts of phones that can't be fixed – benefit domestic violence survivors and prevention. Chargers, headsets, batteries and accessories are also accepted.

Donations are accepted at all Verizon Wireless stores or may be sent to HopeLine, c/o ReCellular Inc., 2555 Bishop Circle W., Dexter, MI 48130.

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